FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Karpov Elaborates on Disarmament Problems AA 1
  USSR Favors 'Summit' AA 1
  Missile Conversion Possible AA 1
  'Alarming' Elements at Talks AA 2
  'Reliable Control' Needed AA 3
  SDI 'Antipode' of ABM Treaty AA 3
USSR Ability to Prevent U.S. Superiority Stressed [Ponomarev in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Mar] AA 3
TASS Reports on Reagan INF, SDI Statements AA 6
  Misrepresents USSR's Approach AA 6
  Terms SDI 'Insurance Policy' AA 7
U.S. 'Remains Opposed' to Arms Control Accord AA 8
Kashlev on Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Session AA 9
PRAVDA Notes Latest MX Missile Test Launch [23 Mar] AA 9

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable' [Zhurkin, Shishlin, Levin] CC 1

UNITED STATES & CANADA

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Queries Pentagon Report 'Error' [29 Mar] A 1
Weinberger, Adelman Defend Budget Request A 1
Zorin on U.S. 'Contempt' for Law, Obligations A 2
U.S.-USSR Medical Symposium Ends 26 Mar A 2
'Hypocrisy' of U.S. Stand on Wider Contacts A 3

CHINA

PRC Disarmament Meeting; U.S., Japan Lack Support [Ivanov on Radio Peace and Progress] B 1
Petrovskiy Meets PRC Acting Foreign Minister B 1

EASTERN EUROPE

Further Reportage on PPR's Malinowski Visit F 1
  IZVESTIYA on Gromyko Meeting [25 Mar] F 1
  26 Mar Moscow Activities [Warsaw PAP] F 3
  Grants News Conference F 4
  Stresses Links; Departs [Warsaw PAP] F 4

WESTERN EUROPE

UK Prime Minister Thatcher Begins Official Visit G 1
    Airport Arrival Ceremonies G 1
    Tours Moscow [London PRESS ASSOCIATION] G 1
    Visits Mass Housing, Theater G 3
    Cited on USSR Trip, Goals [IZVESTIYA 27 Mar] G 4
    Londoners Response to Visit [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 29 Mar] G 4
    Soviet People 'Welcome' Visit [IZVESTIYA 28 Mar] G 6
    IZVESTIYA: UK Antinuclear Lobby [29 Mar] G 6
    UK Deployment Linked to Trip [PRAVDA 26 Mar] G 7
    Sakharov May See Thatcher [AFP] G 8
    More Trade Ties Wanted G 8
        [Bogdanov in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 28 Mar]

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Syria's Al-Asad To Visit Moscow Early April H 1
    [Kuwait KUNA]
Orlov-led Delegation Meets With Jordan's Premier H 1
Congratulatory Cable Sent to Moroccan King H 1
    [IZVESTIYA 22 Mar]
Bilateral Fishing Protocol Signed With Yemen H 2
    [PRAVDA 19 Mar]
UAE Minister of Information, Culture Interviewed H 2
    [IZVESTIYA 24 Mar]
IZVESTIYA Interviews Algerian Assembly Chairman H 2
    [Nezmanov, Bitat, 22 Mar]
TASS Notes Tunis Severs Ties With Iran H 4
Commentator on 'Spy Stations' Allegations H 5
    [Lebedeva]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Talyzin Leads Delegation to Mozambique J 1
    Maputo Arrival Statement J 1
    Reception Honors Talyzin J 2
TASS Notes USSR-Mozambique Treaty Anniversary J 3
Mozambique Radio Interviews Ryzhkov J 4
Mozambique Delegation Arrives in Moscow J 5
PRAVDA on 'Flames of War' in Chad [Serbin, 27 Mar] J 5
PRAVDA Cites Mengistu Address to Ethiopian Plenum J 6
    [25 Mar]
Spokesman Comments on U.S. Base in Zaire J 7

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Voskanyan-led Delegation Visits Colombia K 1
    Colombian Coverage [cross-reference] K 1
Shevardnadze Sees Chebrikov off for Cuba K 1
    Raul Castro Welcomes Chebrikov K 1
    Meets Fidel Castro K 1
    Cuban Reportage [cross-reference] K 2

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Decree Sets Local Election Date for 21 June R 1
- Yeltsin Chairs Moscow Soviet Party Group [MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 15 Mar] R 1
  - Hears of 'Negligent' Officials [MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Mar] R 1
- Demichev Attends Youth Commissions Session R 2
- Dolgikh Addresses Coal Industry Conference R 2
- Leaders Open Knowledge Society Congress R 2
- Plenums Held at Republic, Oblast Level R 3
  - PRAVDA on Ukrainian Plenum [Odinets, Tikhomirov, 28 Mar] R 3
  - 'Sharp Criticism' in Leningrad R 7
  - Solovyev Reports to Leningrad R 7
  - 'Positive Changes' in Chelyabinsk R 8
  - Report of Lithuanian Plenum [SOVETSKAYA LITVA 14 Mar] R 8
  - KOMMUNIST Cites Armenian Plenum [15 Mar] R 9
- Uzbek, Turkmen, Estonian Central Committees Meet R 10
- Georgian Officials Dismissed for Corruption [AFP] R 10
- Kuybyshev Obkom Official Discusses Dismissals [Khodasevich in SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA 26 Mar] R 11
- Ternopol Obkom Undergoes Leadership Changes [RADYANSKA UKRAINA 21 Mar] R 12
- PRAVDA UKRAINY on Dnepropetrovsk Obkom Plenum [20 Mar] R 13
- Correction to Plevako on Journalists' Congress R 16

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

- IZVESTIYA on Georgian Snow Damage, Flood Threat [26 Mar] T 1
- Mid-March Weather in European USSR 'Unusual' [SELSKAYA ZHIZN 26 Mar] T 3

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

- Sokolov Issues Order on Next Military Draft [PRAVDA 25 Mar] V 1
- Navy Chief Chernavin Interviewed on Cadre Issues [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 21 Mar] V 1

KARPOV ELABORATES ON DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS

USSR Favors 'Summit'

LD261352 Moscow TASS in English 1337 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The Soviet Union favours in principle a summit between Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan, Viktor Karpov, head of the Directorate for Arms Reduction and Disarmament at the Soviet Foreign Ministry [as received] told a briefing for journalists here today.

"We still believe that such a meeting should be well prepared. It should bring about tangible results on one, two or three major issues related to security, reduction and limitation of nuclear armaments."

In view of this possibility, he said, "we are trying hard at the Geneva talks to ensure positive results. If there is cooperation from the American side, from the side of the U.S. delegation and the United States as a whole, preparations for the summit can be successful.

But we cannot secure mutually acceptable agreements on our own. Two sides are required for that," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Missile Conversion Possible

LD261415 Moscow TASS in English 1357 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- "If the United States wants to reserve a right to convert Pershing-2 missiles into Pershing-1b ones which are easily transformed back into Pershing-2 missiles, why should not the Soviet Union think of having a right to keep its SS-20 missiles in some other capacity", Viktor Karpov, head of the Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs on arms limitation and disarmament issues, stated at a briefing here today.

"Since the SALT II treaty has been announced by the United States as being out of operation, and since the USSR has a right to act with regard to strategic offensive arms as it thinks necessary", he went on to say, "we could visualize, theoretically speaking, such a situation in which the Soviet Union would not eliminate its SS-20 missiles but will, say, convert all the 243 missiles, which we have deployed in Europe, into intercontinental ballistic ones".

"Thereby we would not increase a threat to Europe in any way but, instead, we would increase the power of a retaliatory strike against U.S. territory".

"If the United States has in mind such a version, we could consider it. Although, this is not the way which we would like to follow".

"Our proposal envisages precisely the elimination of the Soviet Union's and the United States' medium-range missiles in Europe, and we would like both sides to take precisely these measures to eliminate their medium-range missiles in Europe, reducing the risk of an outbreak of nuclear war in Europe".

'Alarming' Elements at Talks

LD261324 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Geneva talks" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The group for medium-range missiles functioning within the framework of the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons is winding up its work in Geneva today, said Viktor Karpov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Directorate for the Limitation of Arms and for Disarmament. He was addressing a briefing for newsmen here today.

Agreement has been reached, he continued, that the talks will be resumed on April 23. Correspondingly, the group for medium-range missiles will resume its work also on that date. It is yet too early to sum up the final results of work on the draft treaty on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe. Yet it can be said already now that Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal contained in his statement of February 28 has been a fresh incentive for the talks and set them to specific work.

Meanwhile, Viktor Karpov continued, it is alarming that some elements have appeared in the U.S. stand, which call in question the possibility to eliminate effectively U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. The point at issue is the demand of the U.S. delegation that the whole potential of medium-range ballistic missiles be left in Europe under a new signboard under the pretext of converting Pershing-2 missiles into shorter range ones.

As far as the land-based cruise missiles are concerned, the United States insists on its right not to scrap these missiles, which are now deployed in Europe, but to relocate them to naval ships. This it is proposed, as a matter of fact, that in singing the agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe the USA Could preserve for itself the whole of that potential. Such a plan does not, naturally, accord with the task of reducing nuclear weapons in Europe and lessening the nuclear confrontation between the USSR and the USA in that field.

As far as the tactical missiles are concerned, the difference between the stands of the sides is not over the time of holding the talks, but over the character of the freeze. The USA was trying to get for itself the right to build up its tactical missiles in Europe, while the Soviet Union declared for proceeding from the frozen levels down to a cut in the missiles.

The task now is apparently to analyze carefully before the new session is resumed the results of the discussions held and objectively evaluate what has been achieved so that it would be possible to overcome the outstanding differences at the next stage of the talks and ensure that a mutually acceptable agreement is drawn up that would conform to the agreement reached in Reykjhavik on the total elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said in conclusion.

'Reliable Control' Needed

LD261448 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- At the given stage the Soviet Union has agreed that the question of elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe be resolved without Britain and France undertaking any obligations concerning their nuclear systems. This was stated at a briefing here today by Viktor Karpov, head of the Department for Arms Reduction and Disarmament of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

Since American Pershing-2 and long-range cruise missiles are being deployed on the territory of a number of European countries, the USSR is interested in establishing reliable control also over the process of elimination of these systems at American military bases in Europe. We must be confident that there will be no circumvention of the accord reached, that American medium-range ballistic cruise missiles will not appear at American military bases in Europe. The USSR is interested in conditions to be ensured for reliable control from the Soviet side at American bases in Europe, also through on-site inspection, Viktor Karpov said.

SDI 'Antipode' of ABM Treaty

LD261445 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The Soviet Union does not link an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe to the American Strategic Defense Initiative, Viktor Karpov, head of the Department for Arms Reduction and Disarmanent at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a briefing here today.

As to issues of limiting strategic offensive arms of the USSR and the United States, they were closely linked with the ABM Treaty, with its strict and full compliance. At that point, Karpov said, there emerged a problem with the American SDI programme.

"Clearly, SDI is an antipode of the ABM Treaty. We believe it is necessary that the USSR and the United States reach a clear agreement that both sides shall fully abide by the ABM Treaty, by all its provisions, including the ban on the development, testing and deployment of space-based ABM systems.

This is an earnest of the reduction of the strategic offensive arms. Without this, the issue of cutting the strategic offensive weapons is unfeasible," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

USSR ABILITY TO PREVENT U.S. SUPERIORITY STRESSED

PM300921 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Mar 87 Second Edition p 3

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Observer Manki Ponomarev article under the rubric "International Observer Answers Reader": "We Will Not Permit Superiority" -- first three paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction and reader's letter]

[Text] Here is what N. Pastushenko, a worker at the "Zhdanovtyazhmash" Production Association, wrote to the editorial office:

"Almost every day I read in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the United States and its NATO bloc allies are preparing for war. They would clearly like to obtain military superiority over us, particularly by transferring the arms race to space and expanding work on SDI. One cannot help wondering whether we will be left behind militarily or be able to provide a worthy response to their challenge. After all, the security of our country and the maintenance of world peace depend on it."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer Manki Ponomarev answers Comrade N. Pastushenko.

You are not the only one, Comrade Pastushenko, to be alarmed by the question you asked in your letter. It is being asked in one way or another by many other readers who are also alarmed by the growing threat of war. What can be said on that subject?

Indeed, the arms race is continuing at an unremitting rate in the United States. The unprecedented program for building up strategic nuclear forces adopted back in 1981 is being implemented. The table below shows that the Pentagon already has more than 2,200 ICBM launchers, SLBM's, and heavy bombers (including cruise missile platforms) equipped with approximately 15,000 nuclear charges. Nonetheless, the growth in U.S. strategic offensive forces is continuing. It was no accident that last year the United States refused to observe the SALT II treaty and had already exceeded the limitations imposed by that document on numbers of nuclear arms.

The same picture emerges when one looks at other programs for enhancing the might and combat capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The increasingly extensive work to implement the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" is extremely dangerous. You rightly noted, Comrade Pastushenko, that SDI is allotted a special role in the attempts by militarist U.S. circles to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. This program is called "defensive" merely for diversionary reasons. In fact it is based on space strike weapons systems and its essence lies in the desire to acquire a "space shield" -- in addition to the "strategic sword" that has already been forged -- in order to be able to use it as protection when inflicting a first "disabling" strike against the enemy without fearing a retaliatory strike, and thereby win a nuclear war.

These plans are very dangerous. Dangerous because they make all the more tangible the threat of a nuclear catastrophe which could have only one outcome -- the death of human civilization. This must not be permitted. That is why the Communist Party and the Soviet state devote unremitting attention to maintaining the country's defense capability at the proper level and strengthening its security.

The creation of military-strategic equality and parity between the USSR and the United States and between the Warsaw Pact Organization and the NATO bloc was a major historic gain not ony for the Soviet people but for all world socialism. This parity was achieved at the start of the seventies. It continues to exist today. This does not mean, of course, that there is a Soviet missile for each U.S. missile, a Soviet aircraft for each U.S. aircraft, or a Soviet tank for each U.S. tank. It is not a question of an arithmetical correspondence between the two sides' armed forces and arms, but of the equality of their combat potentials and capabilities.

You can see for yourself that this is actually the case by looking once again at the table of figures on Soviet and U.S. strategic nuclear forces. It shows that the Soviet Union, for instance, has more ICBM's than the United States, and that, for instance, the United States has more heavy bombers, including cruise missiles platforms. On the whole the USSR has a certain advantage in terms of strategic nuclear weapons delivery vehicles, while the United States has a certain advantage in the nuclear charges carried by strategic delivery vehicles. But on the whole, we can quite definitely talk about parity

In short, the USSR has done and will continue to do everything necessary to reliably safeguard its security and that of its friends and allies in order to ensure that nobody, as the saying goes, is tempted to test the strength of our borders.

But the Soviet Union has never taken and will never take a single step over and above the demands and requirements of reasonable, adequate defense. It will not idly and automatically ape what imperialism strives to impose on us in the arms race. That can easily be seen from the Soviet Union's reaction to the U.S. "strategic defense initiative."

Here it would be apposite to recall M.S. Gorbavchev's words. Speaking at the Reykjavik press conference, he said: "...the SDI does not scare us. I can say this with confidence because on such questions bluffing is irresponsible. There will be a response to the SDI. It will be asymmetric, but there will be one. And we will not have to make many sacrifices."

The Soviet press has already discussed the shape our response to the U.S. "Star Wars" program could take. It includes the further development of Soviet nuclear arms with a view to preserving their capability to inflict a retaliatory strike, which will create additional difficulties for U.S. space-based ABM early-warning systems and cause a sharp drop in the efficiency of its interception systems and systems for guiding space strike means to their specific targets. It also includes increases in the number of warheads on Soviet ballistic missiles and the deployment of "dummy missiles" without warheads. The necessary result may also be produced by changing the tactics for launching missiles and building up the number of submarine-launched missiles launched on flat trajectories, and of cruise missiles, which are extremely difficult to detect and destroy reliably from space.

These, so to speak, are the active retaliatory measures. There could also be various passive countermeasures. These could include defending missiles and warheads from laser radiation with a special screen, releasing of chaff clouds in space, and so forth.

The fact that, in the opinion of specialists, the cost of a comprehensive system of measures and countermeasures will, relatively speaking, not be all that great and may amount to just a few percent of the cost of implementing the U.S. SDI program is very important too.

All this, Comrade Pastushenko, makes it possible to conclude that the USSR's persistent desire to prevent military superiority over us from being achieved is not a problem to do with fear of lagging behind, but a problem of responsibility. There is nothing the United States could do that we could not. But we resolutely oppose the U.S. arms race logic.

However, as long as international reaction whips up this race and until it abandons the policy of social revenge and "crusades" against socialism, the Communist Party and the Soviet state, the CPSU Central Committee appeal "To the Soviet People" stresses, "[we] will do everything necessary to maintain the defense might of our country and the socialist community at the proper level. Soviet people can be confident that we will never allow imperialism to obtain military superiority under any circumstances."

Ultimately this all depends on us, Comrade Pastushenko, and on how we work and fulfill our military duty. Peace, which we all want so much, must be achieved first and foremost through daily work -- at plants, in the fields, and at scientific institutes. The better we cope with our own tasks at home the louder and weightier the Soviet Union's voice in the international arena will be.

Figures for Soviet and U.S. Strategic Nuclear Forces (as of 1 January 1987) [subhead]

	USSR	United States
ICBM Launchers	1398	1016
including ICBM launchers with MIRVed warheads	820	550
SLBM Launchers	922	672
including SLBM launchers with MIRVed warheads	352	640
Total ICBM and SLBM Launchers	2320	1688
including ICBM AND SLBM launchers with MIRVed warheads	1172	1190
Heavy Bombers	164	522
including heavy bombers armed with cruise missiles	56	132
Total ICBM, SLBM, and heavy bomber launchers	2484	2210
including those equipped with MIRVed warheads and cruise missles	1228	1322
Total charges on strategic delivery vehicles (approximately)	10,000	15,000

TASS REPORTS ON REAGAN INF, SDI STATEMENTS

Misrepresents USSR's Approach

LD280955 Moscow TASS in English 0824 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 28 TASS -- The White House released President Reagan's statement in connecton with the close of the latest round of talks in the group on the intermediate-range nuclear forces at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva on March 26.

The statement lauds in every way the stand of the American side and its "commitment" to the efforts to reach an accord on medium-range nuclear missiles. Simultaneously, it attempts to misrepresent the Soviet approach to the talks and imputes to the Soviet side a "new position," which is "not acceptable" to the United States or its allies.

The President insists in his statementj on linking an "initial INF agreement" to "constraints" on shorter-range INF missiles.

The Soviet initiative, formulated in the statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on February 28 pursues the clear goal of an immediate separate agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe so that, in keeping with the Reykjavik accords, the USSR and the United States should eliminate them within the next five years. The number of Soviet missiles of that class will be reduced in the Asian part of the Soviet territory to 100 warheads within the same period with the understanding that the United States will retain as many warheads on medium-range missiles in U.S. national territory.

The Soviet Union stresses that as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in achieved, the USSR will withdraw from the GDR and Czechoslovakia, by agreement with the governments of those countries, longer-range INF missiles deployed there as a countermeasure to the stationing of Pershing-2's and cruises in Western Europe. As for the other INF missiles, the Soviet Union has stated its readiness immediately to enter talks with a view to their reduction and total elimination.

The United States has said on more than one occasion that if the USSR detaches medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package, it will be easy to reach accord on their elimination in Europe. Now that the Soviet Union has done so, Washington is trying to devise new pretexts for complicating the talks. This only indicates that the U.S. is unwilling to abolish medium-range missiles in Europe.

Terms SDI 'Insurance Policy'

LD261454 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 26 TASS -- President Reagan Wednesday met with a group of Republican congressmen on Capitol Hill and reiterated his determination to press on with his notorious "Strategic Defense Initiative" for building a partially space-based missiles defense.

He asserted that SDI was insurance policy against a first nuclear strike, an accidental nuclear missile launch and the probability of a nuclear missile falling into the hands of, and being fired by, a fanatic or a mentally unstable dictator.

Reagan voiced content with the progress achieved in the SDI effort.

But ABC television in an SDI-related story the same day accused his administration of blatantly cheating Americans when telling them of "spectacular progress" made in the "Star Wars" program which has already devoured eight billion dollars.

The TV network said administration officials had been announcing one success after another but some of the widely publicized experiments had been nothing more than P.R. tricks.

In Septamber 1985, the Pentagon, for example, hyped as a "breakthrough in the development of chemical laser technology" and experiment in which the third stage of a rocket was destroyed on earth.

The ABC said it had transpired later that the rocket had been blown up with ordinary explosives.

A report drawn up by the staff of three American senators in March last year warned that SDI experiments could mean trickery that was only meant to ensure a steady stream of money for the "Star Wars" project.

Commenting on Reagan's description of SDI as insurance policy against a first nuclear strike, the ABC said the development of such a system would be seen by the Soviet Union precisely as the U.S. preparation of such a strike.

U.S. 'REMAINS OPPOSED' TO ARMS CONTROL ACCORD

LD272153 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1610 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Brussels, 27 Mar (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Albert Balebanov reports: Yet again the United States has been able to foist onto its NATO allies its unconstructive position on disarmament matters. Such are the results of the meeting here today of the NATO special consultative group which examines questions connected with intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

Speaking at the news conference that followed the meeting, Allen Holmes, the group's chairman and U.S. assistant secretary for political-military affairs, declared that the NATO partners "fully supported the U.S. position" on intermediate-range missiles in Europe and favored the continuing deployment in West Europe of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles.

The Soviet proposal to divorce the problem of intermediate-range missiles in Europe from the totality of the questions being discussed at the Soviet-U.S. talks and to conclude a separate agreement on it would seem to have opened up the way to an agreement. However, the United States has, apparently, taken fright at this turn of events and, to judge from A. Holme's statements, now demands close linkage of the problem of intermediate-range missiles with that of operational-tactical missiles.

In fact, the Soviet Union proposes that, immediately after the conclusion of an INF agreement, talks should begin to reduce and completely eliminate the operational-tactical missiles, and declares its readiness to remove the increased-range missiles of this class sited on the territory of the CSSR and the GDR as countermeasures to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in West Europe. The U.S. side deliberately passes over this aspect in silence.

Moreover, the Washington emissary openly declared that the United States insists on its "right to the upgrading of arms." "There's no chance of a compromise on this question," A. Holmes rapped out harshly. "We'll never agree to the Soviet proposal."

It is noteworthy that, at today's session of the NATO special consultative group, according to A. Holmes, the question of "altering" [peredelka] the Pershing-2 missiles so that they would not formally belong to the intermediate-range category and so would not have to be destroyed was also discussed. The search for all kinds of hitches is under way in order to avoid an agreement.

The news conference by the representative of the U.S. Administration showed the renewed force that the White House, despite its much proclaimed statements on its devotion to arms control, was and remains to be opposed to any kind of agreement on the subject.

KASHLEV ON WARSAW PACT FOREIGN MINISTERS SESSION

LD271614 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1139 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna, 27 Mar (TASS) -- The outcome of the Moscow session of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee was perceived here as evidence of the great importance ascribed by the socialist states to the continuation and development of all-European process.

At the Vienna plenary session of representatives of states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE], Ambassador Yu.B. Kashlev, head of the Soviet delegation, outlines the contents of the documents approved in Moscow. He focused special attention upon the foreign ministers committee's call for conducting the work of the all-European forum in a dynamic, constructive and businesslike spirit so that its decisions become a manifestation of a new thinking in international affairs and assist the consolidation of peace and security and the development of cooperation on the European continent and worldwide.

A press conference on the results of the session of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee was held in the Hofburg Palace the same day.

The documents approved in Moscow, which aroused great interest, were circulated among the journalists at the Vienna meeting.

PRAVDA NOTES LATEST MX MISSILE TEST LAUNCH

PM241301 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 87 First Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Testing the MX Missile"]

[Text] Washington, 22 Mar -- The United States conducted its latest test of the MX ICBM on Saturday. Fitted with six dummy warheads, the missile was launched early in the morning from a test site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California in the direction of Kwajalein Atoll. According to an Air Force spokesman, the test was successful. This is already the 17th out of a total of 20 planned missile launches.

The MX is capable of carrying up to 10 independently targetable nuclear warheads. As spokesmen for the administration have repeatedly said, the development and commissioning of this type of missile is one of the most important components of the Pentagon program which aims to enhance the U.S. nuclear potential. Many specialists believe that, by virtue of its characteristics, the MX is intended for carrying out a first nuclear strike.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD291919 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 29 Mar 87

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Vitaliy Vladimirovich Zhurkin, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute and corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences; political observer Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, and All-Union radio commentator Viktor Nikolayevich Levin]

[Text] Good morning, esteemed comrades. A sitting of the Foreign Ministers' Committee of the Warsaw Pact member states was held in Moscow this week, and we would like to begin by drawing your attention to the work of that committee and to the decisions made there. First of all, however, I would like to note that the work of the Foreign Ministers' Committee has recently become more and more creative, and that each one plans an increased initiative in implementing the course worked out jointly by the countries of the socialist community. Each state in the community has shown no small degree of initiative and previously has come out with important proposals for cooperation among the socialist countries. Recently, however -- and particular attention is being drawn to this -- this high level of initiative also has been producing definite results.

[Shishlin] One can go still further. After all, the restructuring process in the Soviet Union is accompanied by a restructuring process in our mutual relations with the socialist countries. It's not a question of any new kinds of principles being introduced into these relations, but rather, in my view, a question of these principles being filled with real content. This applies to the sphere of economic relations where, as we know, joint enterprises now are being created and direct contacts developed, and where it is a question of genuine socialist division of labor. It is also a question of multiplying contacts in the ideological and cultural spheres, and, of course, in political relations.

In my view this is expressed, on the one hand, quantitative terms which are, of course, easier to understand. I have mind the regular sittings of the Conference of the Political Consultative Committee, the regular meetings of the Foreign Ministers' Committee, and meetings among the socialist countries at other levels.

Some things are also changing qualitatively. Going back to what you said, Viktor Nikolayevich, about the socialist countries' initiatives. I think that we are witnessing the transformation of the meeting of the Foreign Ministers' Committee into a collective, creative think tank for seeking the most effective methods and means of resolving the foreign policy objectives that unite the socialist countries. Though we all know that each socialist country has its own national interests, nevertheless, there are some common objectives -- cardinal objectives -- such as those relating to overcoming the current confrontation and alienation in international relations, and the humanization of international relations. These objectives are, naturally, common to all the socialist countries. I would like to focus attention on the fact that the search is going ahead in such a nerve center of world politics as Europe. This is very important.

[Zhurkin] Nikolay Vladimirovich, it is indeed the case that this process of restructuring the relations among the socialist countries -- that most important component of all international relations -- cannot but have an effect on the situation in Europe as well. We have been witnesses to the 20-year continuation of the pan-European process since the beginning of the first preparatory steps for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe...

[Levin, interrupting] In Budapest in 1957...

[Zhurkin] Correct...

[Levin, interrupting] ...that idea was put forward.

[Zhurkin] It seems to me personally that for the first 10 years that process did not proceed badly, ending in the Helsinki Final Act. In the 2d decade it has been limping a great deal. We know very well whose fault this is. We know well that both the actions of the United States and a whole range of their NATO allies led to this. Anyway, the process has become lame. We will not digress by pointing to the culprits at this moment. The main thing is for us to make note of one objective fact: With the start of new activity on the part of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and of the entire socialist community, serious hope again is apparent that this process will take off. It has now begun to. Remember the results of the first stage of the Stockholm Conference? There is, it seems to me, still serious hope that also at the Vienna meeting, to which this session of the Foreign Ministers' Committee was primarily devoted, the proceedings will get moving.

[Shishlin] What is of note in the work of the Foreign Ministers' Committee is the fact that the sesssion participants are looking not only at yesterday or today, but at tomorrow in regard to European international politics. I think the positions taken by the socialist countries have very good prospects. On the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe, you are aware that here the determination of the socialist countries of Europe to see that an agreement is drawn up this year on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe and on a sharp reduction in this type of weapons in the Asian part of the Soviet Union and on the U.S. territory has been clearly expressed. In my opinion, the decision of the Foreign Ministers' Committee on chemical arms is most vital. Essentially, here we are literally a step, if not half a step from working out an agreement. Therefore, the kind of additional efforts and ideas that have been expressed in the statement of the Warsaw Pact member states on the issue of banning chemical weapons are just what is needed.

On the other hand, I see as a fairly typical feature of the work of the recent session of Foreign Ministers' Committee the extremely attentive attitude of all participants in this conference toward the individual initiatives of each socialist country. This really is creative work. It really is a joint search for a solution when the individual voice of each participant helps to find an optimum solution.

[Levin] I also see as noteworthy in the work of the Moscow session of the Foreign Ministers' Committee the fact that it was not just a question of those initiatives that are well-known -- our proposal, for instance, to separate the medium-range missile problem from the overall complex of talks on nuclear and space weapons in Geneva, which has bained the support of the other socialist countries earlier on -- but here, new solutions also were worked out. There are also new initiatives, in particular on what you, Nikolay Vladimirovich, were saying, on the issue of banning chemical weapons. Incidentally, in this statement from the Warsaw Pact member-states on the question of a ban on chemical weapons, it is stressed that the socialist states are in favor of establishing the most rigorous monitoring [kontrol] of the member states' observance of their convention obligations.

[Zhurkin] Viktor Nikolayevich, on the question of monitoring [kontrol], the situation is now, I think, perfectly clear. Our country and the socialist community are the main fighters today for detailed, rigorous, well-developed, comprehensive, and multiphased international monitoring.

However, the United States, and I would say less so about the other Western countries, but above all about the United States -- which has for 40 years been dressing up in the mantle of the main proponents of monitoring -- that it is today, first here and now there, beginning to retreat from its position on the question of medium-range missiles and some other questions.

However, returning to the session of the Foreign Ministers' Committee, we somehow keep skirting the question of reducing conventional armed forces and weapons in Europe. On this issue, in my view, the socialist countries have demonstrated that now when there is some hope of deciding the issue of medium-range missiles -- and hope is building that after this question has been resolved matters will proceed more vigorously on the question of reducing to zero the strategic and tactical missiles of the two sides in Europe -- it is natural that the question arises of the colossal levels of conventional armed forces on both sides. Two million troops on each side face each other in Europe and, looking ahead, the socialist countries already are proposing a specific way to approach a resolution of this issue and are recalling the fact that, essentially, they have already contributed their main proposal of a 25 percent reduction as a first step.

[Shishlin] On the topic of the problem of curtailing conventional weapons and armed forces, there are many provisos in the West. One of these Western provisos is, in particular, the search for the most precise framework for the talks and for the participants in the talks. At the same time, the Western countries as is well-known, have in general, a fairly reserved attitude toward participation in these talks by neutral and nonaligned states, that is, those countries in Europe that belong neither to the Warsaw Pact nor to the North Atlantic bloc...

[Zhurkin, interrupting] but who live in Europe and are vitally interested in both the political and military situation in Europe becoming more favorable.

[Shishlin] Yes, this is so. The foreign affairs ministers of the socialist community countries do indeed believe that those European states belonging to neither of the blocs should take an active part in resolving this problem affecting all Europeans. Indeed, where is the logic? If we want to continue the Helsinki process, the more active a part played in it by the participants of the memorable European conference in the Finnish capital, the more successfully this process will develop and the further it will progress. What is of course vital is that the Foreign Ministers' Committee meeting actually coincides with a phase where the all-European dialogue seems to be livening up perceptibly, not only on a multilateral basis, but at the bilateral level. What I have in mind in the case in point is a certain clear interest on the part of influential political circles in the FRG to resume more profound, more serious, and more extensive political relations with the Soviet Union. I have in mind the planned visits to the Soviet Union, and the visits by Soviet statesmen to West European countries. Of course, there is the visit to our country, which has in fact already begun, by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

[Levin] Yes, the talks begin tomorrow, Monday, but Thatcher is already in the Soviet Union, and her visit is, of course, arousing great interest. In the first place, it is the first visit, the first official visit, by a British head of government to the Soviet Union for the last 12 years. Secondly, there are no few problems in Soviet-British relations that need to be resolved and the general process of improving our relations could then be advanced.

Finally, we understand perfectly that these talks also could boost some all-European processes. We do not regard the British prime minister in the role of a mediator.

It emerges from her own words that she does not lay any claim to such a role herself, either. The British press, it is true, has repeatedly said that -- I quote -- Thatcher aspires to speak, if not on behalf of the West of a whole, at least on behalf of Western Europe. However, she dissociates herself from this, and this dissociation is probably completely well-founded, insofar as she represents Britain, a big, weighty, major country and a nuclear power. We indeed have things to discuss, in particular the nuclear problem. Yes, at this stage we have put forward proposals to take no account of the British and French forces when working out a treaty on eliminating Soviet and American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. In the long-term, however, this issue must indisputably take account of the British and French nuclear potential. One would like to know how Britain regards the process of progressing toward a nuclear-free world. It is hard to say today what the talks will lead to, and it would be premature, to say the least. The results of the talks will speak for themselves, and after they have been completed, it will be necessary to summarize. For the time being, that is premature.

However, there are indeed questions. We know, for example, that the British Government is advocating arming itself with new Trident nuclear missiles. The conservative government does not want to renounce this, while the Labor Party leader Kinnock briefed President Reagan on his concept this week. True, it is said that the talks were not conducted in the warmest of atmospheres. However, the fact remains: When the Labor Party announced that it was in favor of a nuclear-free Britain, this evoked shock not only among many of Britain's NATO partners, but did not receive wide support in Britain itself -- not particularly wide support. A public opinion poll conducted in 1983 showed that 23 percent of the population favors unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain, while 67 percent are against it. A distinctive feature is that last fall, the correlation already looked different: 33 percent for the renunciation of nuclear weapons and 57 percent against such renunciation; things are moving. And if -- if, but we believe that this is not only possible, it is simply imperative -- agreement is reached on eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, if an agreement is reached, then probably the correlation of forces in favor of Britain renouncing nuclear weapons will increase, just as the tendency in the world toward eliminating nuclear weapons also will increase.

[Shishlin] Viktor Nikolayevich, I think, nevertheless, that the question of Britain's nuclear weapons is one of tomorrow, if not the day after tomorrow, and most likely the day after tomorrow. In connection with the British prime minister's visit, I think one should not fail to consider the following: As far back as 1984, if my memory does not fail me, a parliamentary delegation visited Britain.

[Levin] Yes, December 1984.

[Shishlin] This delegation in fact was led by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev himself. Quite fruitful talks were held with the British at that time, including with Margaret Thatcher, and some prospects were outlined -- quite optimistic ones, on the whole -- for wide development of Anglo-Soviet cooperation in various areas. It seems to me now that if one looks at this period of time, 1984-1987, to a considerable degree these prospects have not on the whole been realized.

Furthermore, the second aspect I wanted to draw attention to: On the eve of her visit, Margaret Thatcher had the opportunity to talk to her European colleagues: She had meetings with French President Mitterrand and with FRG Chancellor Kohl.

However, even this is not the main point. The main point is the tone of Margaret Thatcher's statements that she considered necessary to adopt when speaking either in France, in West Germany, or in Britain itself.

I would say that this tone is distinguished by a toughness [zhestkost], by a conscious cementing of British positions. Outwardly it does not exactly look very promising in terms of whether one can expect any major results or major breakthroughs from the talks to be held in the Soviet Union. But all talks hold a secret. Perhaps this very cementing of positions is linked with the fact that there is an important secret. In the present case, I am quite simply guessing, because I do not think that the British prime minister has come just to have a cozy chat with Soviet leaders...

[Levin, interrupting]...to go to Zagorsk....

[Shishlin] Not just to Zagorsk, but I think a trip to Georgia has been planned for her, too...

[Levin, interrupting] Yes, then to Georgia.

[Shishlin] Well, and then to come back, and come back with everything remaining just the same.

[Zhurkin] But there is a sort of area of purely bilateral relations, primarily economic ones, where, I think, one must, nevertheless, expect some sort of changes for the better, taking into account both the latest decisions by the Soviet Union in this area, and our country's active aspiration to develop economic relations with all West European countries, including Britain, with which a well-established trading relation has existed for many years. So probably where bilateral relations are concerned, I do not think there is any great secret there. To return to the central issues however, that of Soviet-British relations and of world policy, then of course [words indistinct].

[Levin, interrupting] There is a lot that remains completely unknown.

[Shishlin] But, Vitaliy Vladimirovich, if we recall how things were after Reykjavik, [word indistinct] you remember, don't you, that soon after Reykjavik, and later too, in January of this year, Margaret Thatcher was in the United States. Then, you recall, the press had it that henceforth Margaret Thatcher would be some kind of mouthpiece for the NATO countries' general position on arms control issues. Well, it should be said that the 28 February statement by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and our new position on medium-range missiles in Europe and in the Asian sector of our country, is one of first priority, as formulated by Margaret Thatcher after her return from the United States after talks with President Reagan. After the Soviet proposal had been put forward on 28 February, it was Britain and France that both supported and did not support this idea, and here, of course, elaboration and precise definition of positions are extremely important, extremely so.

[Levin] Well, since we have touched upon the problem of medium-range missiles, it seems appropriate at this point to speak about the U.S. attitude to this problem. It was this very week after all, if my memory serves me correctly, that the sixth edition of the booklet "Soviet Military Power" was published in the United States.

This work was presented by Defense Secretary Weinberger on the Worldnet Television Network, and the thought that was doggedly, consistently, and tenaciously advanced by Weinberger was that the Soviet Union had both been feverishly arming -- I'm citing his words -- and would continue to do so. In particular, it is impossible not to draw attention to the fact that Weinberger, generally repeating the theses of the booklet prepared by the Pentagon, was, to put it mildly, a trifle loose with the facts.

I will cite only a few examples. At a news conference, for instance, Weinberger was asked the question: On page 112, the report says that either Soviet assistants -- I'm citing this verbatim -- or the Soviets themselves, aim laser beams at aircraft of the Free World and at their pilots, and thus are possibly inducing temporary blindness among these pilots. Would you be able to clarify this? What incidents are involved?

This is followed by a very diffuse reply on the kinds of technological conditions that are possible for the application of these laser beams, and there was no direct answer. After this came the second question: In this case, you want to say that, in fact, a laser has not been used against pilots? Weinberger's reply was no, as far as I know, that has not happened. Well, then, excuse me, but what is being said in the report on page 112 then?

Or, let us take another matter relating to the correlation of nuclear forces. This is a favorite topic of U.S. propaganda, which loves to tote up the correlation of armaments between the USSR and the United States and which presents this in such a form that the United States is supposedly almost without weapons compared to the USSR. Here is what Weinberger said: In ICBM's and ballistic missiles, and submarine-based ballistic missiles, they -- that is the USSR -- outstrip us by a ratio of 4 to 1.

Let us take a look at the figures and let us take a look at the figures that the United States also admits. Here is the data on the strategic nuclear forces of the USSR and the United States for 1 January 1987. ICBM launchers: The USSR -- 1,398; the United States -- 1,016. Yes, in this category we do have a certain advantage, although, as you can see, the ratio is not 4 to 1. Submarine-based ballistic missile launchers, the overall number: the USSR -- 922; the United States -- 672. But, including launchers for missiles with MIRV's: the USSR -- 352; and the United States -- almost twice as many at 640. The overall number of warheads on strategic carriers: the USSR has about 10,000; the United States about 15,000.

Due to the difference here in approaches in terms, we believe that there is an approximate parity. But, then what kind of 4 to 1 ratio is Weinberger speaking about? He knows these figures full well. You see, this manipulation of facts and figures is very dangerous insofar as it generally continues to operate on developing the myth of the Soviet military threat and in no way bears witness to the good intentions of the United States.

[Zhurkin] Viktor Nikolayevich, but here is the remarkable thing. This is, after all, the sixth edition of this rather trashy little tome, founded on falsifications -- although it has been colorfully published with lots of crude pictures and photographs. Just look at what efforts were undertaken by Weinberger and the propaganda apparatus to draw attention to this booklet now. These efforts are unprecedented; nothing similar has ever been done before. This means that it is getting harder and harder for Weinberger. The heat is on: in a changing international situation, they are now making far greater efforts than were earlier required in their attempts to somehow obstruct the progress of international processes, progress which is nevertheless positive and moving forward.

[Shishlin] Vitaliy Vladimirovich, I want to take up your thought that today, somehow, we really have been speaking more about Europe, or actually shifts in people's ways of thinking -- noticeable not only among Europeans, but quite noticeable within the United States. Very interesting things are taking place in Congress. When the House of Representatives opens session -- or at least a committee of the House of Representatives -- it will start to work out all kinds of bills to limit the financing of SDI and of strategic offensive weapons in the United States so that the United States will not overstep the limits of the SALT II treaty. The movement is growing in Congress to only finance nuclear tests with a yield no greater than one kiloton. Well, in my view, that is all very serious. It says that in general, the demands for a leveling out in international relations and for a radical improvement in the world political climate are far from being a monopoly of the Soviet Union or of our friends in the Warsaw Pact. These demands arise from the objective reality of that same West European political life, and similar demands are arising in U.S. politics.

[Levin] Nikolay Vladimirovich, I would like to illustrate your thought by way of an example. Our listeners already know that the United States already is saying out loud that in the event of an accord being reached on the removal of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, it will not eliminate the existing missiles, as put forward in our proposals; on the contrary, the United States says that it will transform Pershing-2 missiles into short-range missiles. We will remove one stage; even the technical problems in the process are explained in detail, describing it as very simple to do all this, but we will retain the physical missiles. As they would have it, this is necessary in order to compensate for the lag behind the USSR in the area of shorter-range missiles. Incidentally, on this account, the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers' Committee gave an extremely accurate response: We propose to carry out the phased reduction of military confrontation in Europe, with the constant retention of military parity at an increasingly lower level. In doing so, wherever there is disparity in factors of any kind, it is necessary to level out the situation by way of appropriate reductions.

However, Weinberger is proposing a buildup. Here is how Bahr, the SPD arms control expert, reacted to this: He said that Weinberger is apparently unable to conceive anything other than achieving stability through new weapons. But that is, after all, idiocy. These are very sharp words, but in my view they accurately describe the situation.

[Shishlin] Having talked about current international affairs, we are forced to state that a great number of difficult problems still remain on the agenda, and, practically speaking, not a single one has been removed. However, shifts, both in people's minds and in practical matters, are taking place. For this reason, I feel that spring 1987, while it is a complicated, difficult spring in international relations, all the same should be called just that -- spring, insofar as some kind of general thawing process is underway in international relations. Along with the thaw, there is a stepping up of dialogue, and the stepping up of dialogue is the first step toward mutual understanding. From mutual understanding it is necessary to move on toward a reasonable compromise.

In essence, we may state that the course of active foreign policy taken by the USSR and which was determined by the 27th CPSU Congress and expressed in the Soviet position at the Geneva summit and in Reykjavik, this position -- and this has been borne out in practice -- has proved to be one with prospects.

[Levin] On this, esteemed comrades, our broadcast comes to an end. Thank you for your attention. All the best.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA QUERIES PENTAGON REPORT 'ERROR'

PM300955 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Administrative Error?"]

[Text] Washington, 28 Mar -- The U.S. Defense Department has again been caught disseminating misinformation. It was a "large caliber" lie, as they say: It was contained in Defense Secretary C. Weinberger's annual report to Congress and in the annual military policy statement by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Both these documents included a table comparing the positions of the United States and the USSR for 20 basic basic defense technologies. In particular the table's compilers claimed that the correlation between the technical standards of the nuclear warheads of the United States and USSR "is changing considerably" in the USSR's favor. Previous reports had indicated the existence of "approximate parity" in this field.

Congressman Edward Markey asked the Pentagon to explain how the "qualitative balance" had changed in the Soviet Union's favor if the USSR had carried out no nuclear tests for 18 months, observing the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, while the United States had carried out 26 underground nuclear tests.

It was a mistake, Admiral W. Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted in a reply letter. "No substantial reason has been discovered to justify this change," he stated. The admiral gave assurances that the cause of it all was "an administrative error," which will be rectified.

Is the question closed? Where is the guarantee that the numerous items with which the Pentagon crams Congress do not contain other similar "errors," which it would be more correct to call unforgivable misinformation?

WEINBERGER, ADELMAN DEFEND BUDGET REQUEST

OW260035 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1230 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Fusenenko]

[Text] The U.S. Congress began studying the White House defense budget request for fiscal year 1987. The sum requested is approximately $312 billion, an astronomical amount.

Trying to ensure the success of his request, the President dispatched two of his arm-twisters to Congress -- Caspar Weinberger, secretary of defense, and Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The high ranking intercessors divided the responsibilities and areas of activity. The head of the military department headed for the House Arms Services Committee, while Adelman arrived at the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. Both spoke yesterday to these committees.

The Pentagon boss resorted to his usual repertoire. He began beating the drum to frighten the congressmen with a Soviet military threat, which he always does.

Adelman, remembering that he heads the agency involved with questions of disarmament, resorted to smooth exhortation. He said that if the military expenditure proposed by the administration is reduced, the White House position at the talks with the Soviet Union on agreement for reducing nuclear medium-range missiles will be undermined. According to Adelman's logic, if nuclear explosions are stopped, if the tests on antisatellite systems are halted, or if the White House request for funds for Star Wars is reduced, all of this would deliver a severe blow to the prospects of normalization of relations with the Soviet Union.

ZORIN ON U.S. 'CONTEMPT' FOR LAW, OBLIGATIONS

LD290547 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] And now we come to "Moscow Viewpoint," contributed as usual by Dr Valentin Zorin:

The investigation into the arms to Iran scandal under way in Washington has revealed some staggering facts. It transpired that officials in high places have been violating the law for 6 years and keeping the American people in the dark about it. More importantly, the investigations confirmed the view that contempt of the law and international obligations is a rule, rather than an exception to the rule, as far as this administration is concerned.

This is born out by the maneuvering of the administration with a view to torpedoing the ABM Treaty, signed in 1972 by President of the United States and ratified by the Senate. The treaty has been in force for 10 years, giving rise to no doubts as to its interpretation, either in Washington or Moscow. At some stage the masterminds of the Star Wars program realized that the treaty stands in the way of their plans and decided to fabricate the so-called loose interpretation of the treaty in order to advance one step nearer to bringing weapons to outer space.

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Sam Nunn, has carefully studied the problem and his report exposes a gross distortions [as heard] the fact by State Department lawyers. In Senator Nunn's opinion the so-called broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty has no legal basis whatever. It's a gross violation of the law and America's international obligations, aimed at satisfying the political whims of some members of the administration.

There's a good reason for considering the arms to Iran row and the so-called broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty in the same context. In both cases the administration showed contempt of its international obligations and ignored the decisions of the United States' legislature. The question is whether what American leaders are saying can be trusted at all. The principle whereby treaties are to be respected goes back to Roman law and is fundamental to international law. Washington's lack of respect for century-old legal traditions does serious damage to the moral prestige of the United States.

U.S.-USSR MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM ENDS 26 MARCH

LD261836 Moscow TASS in English 1506 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- The third Soviet U.S. symposium on medicine and medical equipment ended here today.

Sponsored by the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Science and Technology and the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council, it was attended by representatives of Soviet scientific and medical circles, public health institutions and research centers and by executives from American firms specializing in medical equipment.

Richard O'Brien, vice-president of Corning Glass works who attended the three-day symposium together with officials from other U.S. companies, said the meeting had been significant in that it had enabled Soviet and American experts to exchange the latest news in science and technology and helped establish business contacts between U.S. firms and Soviet organizations.

The symposium heard reports on ways of diagnosing and treating cardio-vascular and cancerous diseases and developing new medicines, medical equipment and instruments using microprocessor devices.

'HYPROCISY' OF U.S. STAND ON WIDER CONTACTS

LD290400 Moscow TASS in English 2357 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 28 TASS -- The Pentagon leadership has categorically forbidden the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, to invite Soviet citizens -- poet Yevgeniy Yevtushenko and cosmonaut Vladimir Dzhanibekov -- to speak before the academy's cadets.

The Pentagon people have been apparently alarmed at a possibility that a meeting of the academy's cadets with representatives of the Soviet Union will undermine their faith in the anti-Soviet and anti-communist stereotypes whcih are being intensively cultivated in the U.S. Army.

The nervous reaction by the U.S. Department of Defence to the initiative of the West Point Academy patently illustrates the hyprocrisy of the stand of Washington which, in words, advocates wider contacts between people of the United States and the Soviet Union while in actual fact tries to confine the contacts to rigid limits suitable to the administration.

PRC DISARMAMENT MEETING; U.S., JAPAN LACK SUPPORT

OW300321 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 0300 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Ivanov commentary]

[Text] Listeners: As everyone knows, a UN conference for the Asia-Pacific region within the framework of the world disarmament campaign has concluded in Beijing. The conference revealed the radical differences in the stands between the Soviet Union, other socialist countries and the peace-loving people in the region on the one hand and the United States and those who act as daring vanguards for the U.S. aggressive policy on the other. On this subject, our observer Ivanov comments as follows:

The theory on safeguarding the lasting peace of the Asia-Pacific region advanced by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Vladivostok last summer was the focus of attention of the representatives attending this regional conference. It is the consistent position of our country that new, rational relations be established among countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The proposal made by the Mongolian People's Republic for the establishment of an Asian disarmament and peace issue center as an organization for implementing the peace and security plan for the Asia-Pacific region evoked the interest of the participants. They pointed out with satisfaction that the two big socialist countries, the Soviet Union and China, have committed themselves not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. They signed a protocol of the Rarotonga Treaty declaring the South Pacific a nuclear-free zone.

The U.S. representatives failed to win support from the participants in the Beijing conference for its nuclear intimidation policy, its position of refusing to support the Soviet proposal for stopping nuclear tests, and its attempt to defend its unwillingness to sign the Rarotonga Treaty. Also not welcomed by the participants was the speech made by the Japanese official representative in defense of the policy of expanding nuclear armaments in the Asia-Pacific region on the pretext of enhancing security against a concocted danger from the Soviet Union.

The Beijing conference once again indicated that the people of the Asia-Pacific region are longing for peace and cooperation.

PETROVSKIY MEETS PRC ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

LD241126 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing, March 24 TASS -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, in Beijing to attend a regional United Nations conference within the framework of a worldwide campaign for disarmament for Asian and Pacific countries, today met with China's Acting Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

They discussed questions of establishing a system of lasting and secure peace in Asia and limiting and ending the arms race in the most dangerous nuclear-space direction.

The Soviet side described the process of restructuring currently under way in the Soviet Union. The Chinese side showed much interest in the information.

The conversation was attended by the USSR's ambassador to China, Oleg Troyanovskiy.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON PPR'S MALINOWSKI VISIT

Izvestiya on Gromyko Meeting

PM261105 IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 87 Morning Edition pp 1, 3

[TASS report: "Polish Sejm Delegation in Kremlin"]

[Text] On 23 March A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received in the Kremlin a delegation from the Polish Sejm headed by Roman Malinowski, marshal of the Sejm.

During the warm, friendly conversation both sides expressed profound satisfaction at the dynamic development of relations of fraternity and close all-around cooperation between the USSR and Poland and the Soviet and Polish peoples. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of the frequent meetings between M.S. Gorbachev and W. Jaruzelski. Note was made of the qualitatively new level of collaboration between the two countries in all fields.

Trade turnover between the two countries is of striking magnitude, A.A.Gromyko said. The USSR is Poland's main trading partner. It accounts for nearly 40 percent of that country's entire foreign trade. In 5 years trade turnover between our countries will increase 50 percent. The figures and many facts cited during the conversation reflect the firm political, economic, cultural, and other ties between the two countries.

"I remember Potsdam," A.A. Gromyko noted. "The discussion of the Poland question at the time ended to the advantage of Poland, the Soviet Union, and the whole world. It was a fair solution. History and geography oblige us to build only good-neighborly, friendly relations between our countries."

R. Malinowski expressed his full agreement with this thesis.

"A strong, stable, socialist Poland is necessary to both Europe and the world," he said. "What destabilizes Poland does not destabilize Poland alone; what strengthens Poland does not strengthen Poland alone."

A.A. Gromyko described the tremendous work being performed in the Soviet state to implement the party decisions aimed at the revolutionary restructuring and renewal of Soviet society. In this regard he stressed the importance of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum which also confirmed and developed the provisions of the 27th party congress aimed at the broad democratization of all spheres of life in the Soviet Union.

R. Malinowski provided information on the progress of the fulfillment of plans for Poland's socioeconomic development in the light of the instructions of the 10th PZPR Congress. The Polish Sejm's vigorous legislative activity plays an important part in this process. He said that people's Poland is preparing to celebrate widely the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the 65th anniversary of the creation of the Soviet Union. The Polish people's degree of interest in the program for these festivities is very high.

The Polish side stressed that in recent years there has been a resolute reorientation in Poland's foreign economic cooperation. It is now directed mainly at the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. [paragraph continues]

A large amount of work is under way to develop direct ties without intermediaries between the enterprises of the fraternal socialist countries and particularly between enterprises of Poland and the Soviet Union. A qualitatively new level of effectiveness in Soviet-Polish cooperation is thus created.

Summing up the results of the bilateral relations between the two countries, A.A. Gromyko said:

"A situation in which relations between the Soviet Union and the people's Poland are other than friendly is simply inconceivable now."

Both sides expressed the certainty that the implementation of the large-scale long-term program for economic and social cooperation between the USSR and Poland will promote further growth of those countries' economic potential and the fulfillment of the plans for their social development.

The participants in the meeting exchanged opinions on topical questions of the international situation and examined a broad spectrum of its present-day problems. The need was stressed to continue to build up the joint efforts of the socialist countries and primarily of the Warsaw Pact states and all peace-loving forces to halt the arms race, spare mankind from the nuclear threat, and strengthen international and European security.

"Poland has an important place in this process," A.A. Gromyko said. "The pact on the socialist countries' defense alliance is rightly called the Warsaw Pact. We live by the same thoughts as the Polish people on the question of the inviolability of borders in Europe and on the problems being discussed at the talks in Stockholm, Vienna, and Geneva."

R. Malinowski said that the Polish Sejm enthusiastically supported the new Soviet initiative on the immediate conclusion of an agreement between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. Such an agreement would impart powerful positive impetus to the advance of a historic cause -- nuclear disarmament.

A.A. Gromyko: In advancing this proposal we proceed from the premise that man invented this weapon and man can also destroy it. The responsibility of those figures who are placing obstacles on the path of the solution of this imposing task of all mankind is great, very great.

R. Malinowski: The USSR's position is gaining the peoples' broad support. I recently visited West Europe. I heard how even statesmen of the capitalist countries support the Soviet proposals and express surprise that the United States is openly earmarking funds to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

Both sides described the U.S. "Star Wars" program as an aggressive plan aimed at putting nuclear weapons in space.

During the conversation the mutual desire was expressed for the further consolidation of contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Polish Sejm, which will promote the more effective development of the entire complex of Soviet-Polish cooperation.

The conversation was attended by P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Voss, chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Wlodimierz Natorf, Polish ambassador to the USSR.

26 Mar Moscow Activities

LD271456 Warsaw PAP in English 0030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[By PAP correspondent Slawomir Popowski]

[Text] Moscow, March 26 -- Polish parliamentary delegation led by Sejm Speaker Roman Malinowski, had further talks in the Soviet capital today as part of its ongoing official visit to the Soviet Union.

In the morning, the delegation laid flowers at Lenin's Mausoleum. Bunches of flowers were also laid at the gravestones of Feliks Dzierzynski and Konstanty Rokossowski and the tomb of the unknown soldier.

The morning meetings opened with talks with Soviet parliamentarians, attended by Malinowski and chairman of the Soviet of the Union at the USSR Supreme Soviet Lev Tolkunov and chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss.

The Polish and Soviet legislators discussed the experiences of both parliaments' work, with Soviet side presenting, inter alia, the tasks involved in the policy of reconstruction and the acceleration strategy.

They noted that the process was an objective necessity, justified both by external and internal causes. For reconstruction to unfold the true potential of socialism, it must have a really revolutionary character and cover all the spheres of life of Soviet society.

The success of it can be assured only by thorough democratization of public and economic life, they said, presenting legislative plans of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the tasks facing the rest of the country's representative system.

They also discussed the factors hampering the reconstruction drive and the proposed amendments to the electoral law in the Soviet Union, whose new provisions will be tested already during the nearest election.

The Polish legislators presented the accomplishments of the Sejm during its previous and current terms, briefed the Soviet side on the course of work on the restructuring of the economy and management structures, aiming to utilize to the full the potential of socialism, just as in the USSR.

The meeting also discussed cooperation between both parliaments, supporting the idea of a Warsaw Treaty parliamentary summit, and calling for closer direct contacts between the standing committees of Polish and Soviet parliaments.

Pursuit of a cooperation programme of this kind would allow to better use each other's experience in solving the various social and economic problems and would facilitate integration, they said.

The chairmen of both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet gave a luncheon in honour of the Sejm delegation.

Addressing the luncheon, Tolkunov stressed his country attached big importance to furtherance of the all-European process. In this connection, he singled out as very important Poland's proposal to the Vienna meeting to expand the mandate of the Stockholm conference onto disarmament issues.

Expressing concern over complex international situation, Malinowski stressed that Soviet and Socialist states' peace initiatives opened a realistic way for saving the world from nuclear catastrophe.

Poland's Ambassador Wlodzimierz Natorf gave a banquet to the delegation tonight.

Grants News Conference

LD272305 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Today there was a news conference by Roman Malinowski, head of the delegation of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic, Marshal of the Sejm, in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Centers in Moscow, for Soviet and foreign journalists. Speaking to the journalists he said, in particular:

[Begin Malinowski recording in Polish with superimposed Russian translation] All our talks and conversations took place in a very cordial, friendly, warm atmosphere and, moreover, in a businesslike atmosphere. We exchanged experience in the work of our countries' parliaments. It should be stressed that interesting processes are taking place in the activity of both the Sejm and the Supreme Soviet, which are manifestations of the processes of democratization, and are serving those processes well. We also exchanged views on our bilateral relations, our bilateral relations in all areas. We noted with satisfaction that they are developing dynamically and that they have a qualitatively new character, which sets up additional good conditions for the accelerated development of our countries.

I would like to say that the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, the strategy of acceleration embodied in the symbolic words, restructuring, acceleration, and openness, are arousing unusually wide interest in Poland and enjoy great support. These are transformations of truly revolutionary scale, but they also are important for Poland and the other socialist countries, since those changes and transformations taking place in Poland -- what we call socialist revitalization, a process of reforms and national agreement -- those processes flow from the complete utilization of the creative possibilities of socialism and serve well to ensure that the challenge of the future is coped with. They serve the people and the development of our countries. Thus, there are common roots and common aims. Therefore, we value our common experience. [end recording]

Roman Malinowski, the marshal of the Sejm, answered numerous questions from Soviet and foreign journalists.

Stresses Links; Departs

LD280303 Warsaw PAP in English 2214 GMT 27 Mar 87

[By PAP correspondent Slawomir Popowski]

[Text] Moscow, March 27 -- Polish Sejm delegation led by speaker Roman Malinowski ended its Soviet visit today made at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

On today's last day of the visit, the Polish legislators saw Moscow's "Komsomol" car factory where they met with workers and activists.

Topics at the meeting included convergence of the current processes in Poland and the USSR, and progress of the Soviet "reconstruction" drive and Poland's economic reform. It is, it was said, the convergence of the economic, social and political processes.

Mutual advantages and necessity of close contacts and cooperation between both countries were also raised and in this connection also the importance of the meetings between the leaders of both states -- Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Later today, Malinowski gave a news conference at the Soviet Foreign Ministry press centre, saying in a summing up comment that all the talks and meetings had passed in a warm and businesslike atmosphere.

The activities of both respective parliaments are marked by many interesting phenomena relating to deepening democracy, he said, adding that meetings with Soviet parliamentarians served also to discuss the bilateral relations between both countries, their dynamic development and new quality, which provide good conditions for stepped-up cooperation.

He said much attention also went to the transformations in both countries. The resolutions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU and last January's CC plenum, the entire Soviet development strategy mottoed "Reconstruction, acceleration, openness" aroused tremendous interest in Poland and was met with ardent support.

Reflecting on the changes taking place in the Soviet Union, Malinowski noted their truly revolutionary character and said they were of profound significance for Poland and the rest of the socialist community.

"Changes in Poland, known as 'Renewal', stem from the same origins of seeking full utilization of all the creative possibilities of socialisim," he said, adding that "they have the same roots."

"The same are also our experiences and we feel considerable satisfaction at Poland being within the same trend for changes," he said.

"Our meetings in the USSR emphasised the role of multilateral interparliamentary contacts as part of which the Warsaw Treaty parliament chiefs will meet in July in the Polish capital."

Answering a question on the proximity of changes taking place in Poland and the USSR, Malinowski stressed never before had the decisions by the authorities of both countries been so close and convergent, and mutually inspiring as now.

The delegation has returned to Warsaw tonight.

UK PRIME MINISTER THATCHER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

Airport Arrival Ceremonies

LD281854 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has arrived on an official visit in Moscow today at the invitation of the Soviet leadership.

At Vnukovo Airport she was welcomed by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR foreign minister.

The welcoming party included Vladimir Kamentsev, vice-chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Mikhail Smirtyukov, senior executive officer of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers Boris Aristov, Yuriy Volmer and Vasiliy Shamshin, USSR First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Kovalev, Valeriy Shaykin, chairman of the executive committee of the Moscow city Soviet, USSR Ambassador to Britain Leonid Zamyatin and other officials.

Among the welcoming party was also British Ambassador to the Soviet Union Bryan George Cartledge.

In the airport, the national flags of Britain and the Soviet Union were hoisted and a guard of honour of troops of the Moscow garrison was mustered in the airfield. The band struck the national anthems of the two countries.

Nikolay Ryzhkov and Margaret Thatcher inspected the guard of honour of the Soviet servicemen.

The welcoming ceremony in the airport ended in the march-past of the Guard of Honour.

From the airport the motorcade accompanied by a guard of honour of motorcyclists set out for the city. The national flags of Britain and the Soviet Union were put up in the streets and squares all along the route of the motorcade.

In the Georgievskiy Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace Margaret Thatcher was welcomed by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and wife.

Then a short conversation was held.

Tours Moscow

LD291506 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1543 GMT 29 Mar 87

[By Chris Moncrief, PA chief political correspondent in Moscow]

[Text] The prime minister was mobbed in the cold, raw streeets of Moscow today by delighted crowds of cheering Russians as she continued what she described as her "historic mission" to the Soviet Union.

They reached out, old women, small children, and white-bearded men, to clasp her hands as she strode through the slush and mud of the suburbs of the capital.

It was a welcome which she said "amazed" her.

Throngs of people tumbled over each other to catch a glimpse of the smiling visitor, protected from the icy wind by a fawn fur-lined hat and brown coat and boots.

The police did not seem to know how to cope as Mrs Thatcher surged on like the pied piper. Old Muscovites said they had seen nothing like it.

The prime minister called on people in a flat in south-east Moscow -- and bought a loaf, cheese, and a tin of pilchards in a supermarket.

Earlier, she had travelled 45 miles to pay poignant and moving tributes at the Russian orthodox church, an historic ancient shrine and monastery in the city of Zagorsk.

Her welcome there was no less warm. People called after her: "Come back again -- and come back often."

Mrs Thatcher was clearly moved by this reception.

She was there as a mark of solidarity to Christianity inside the Soviet Union from Christians the world over.

She symbolised that solidarity by lighting a candle during the service at St Sergius' Church, during a service of haunting singing in an atmosphere laden with the aroma of incense.

Later, at lunch at the monastery, she said: "I have been deeply moved by what I have seen and heard here today. Your beautiful churches are not empty shells, speaking to us only by bygone ages.

"They are full of life, and centres of varied communities of young people and families, as well as the older generations.

"I hope that this will continue, that the principle of freedom of religious belief and worship will grow ever stronger here in the Soviet Union and throughout the world, and that any of those people imprisoned for their faith will be freed."

Mrs Thatcher added: "I have lit my candle -- one among so many -- representing the hopes, the fears, and anxieties and the prayers of thousands of anonymous but important individuals.

"Today's small flame -- the candle which I have lit -- is for the future. It's a hope that my visit to the Soviet Union will carry forward the cause of peace with freedom and justice. I pray that it will."

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, carrying a camera, tried to keep pace with Mrs Thatcher.

At times he found himself mistaken for a reporter and the victim of "glasnost" in reverse -- open doors being slammed in his face.

Each time Mrs Thatcher entered a church, her followers became embroiled with officialdom. There were scuffles in porches. One reporter had his hat removed, he was clipped around the ears, then his hat was duly replaced.

After lunch, Mrs Thatcher was driven at high speed to the Moscow suburb of Krylatskoye to be showered with bouquets of flowers, boxes of chocolates and items of Soviet culture.

She visited three small but well-appointed flats on the 10th floor of a tower block.

One occupant, Anna Yegorova, 55, planted a robust kiss on Mrs Thatcher's cheek, and told her: "I would like to buy a ticket to visit Britain. We need more cooperation between our peoples to bring peace, friendship and happiness."

Back in the streets, the crowds were still waiting in the icy wind.

Mrs Thatcher commented: "They have given us a marvellously warm welcome although it is such a cold and raw day. I am amazed."

Asked whether she thought it was like electioneering in Britain, Mrs Thatcher paused and said: "I think electioneering here could be a little bit different."

She went on: "We have seen the very old things of Russian with the churches of Zagorsk. You see the beauty of it and hear the lovely singing and you see numbers of people who go to worship in the congregations, young people and families.

"Now, in these new flats, we have come to see the very modern."

Mrs Thatcher, who is to open talks with Mr Gorbachev in the Kremlin tomorrow, went on: "I am here to represent my country on an historic mission."

Tonight she was attending a special Bolshoy Ballet performance of Swan Lake, for which the Soviet Government took over the entire theatre.

Visits Mass Housing, Theater

LD291834 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made a trip to the Moscow Oblast town of Zagorsk, where she visited the Troitse-Sergiyeva Monastery.

In Moscow, the guest acquainted herself with a mikrorayon in the new mass housing development Krylatskoye. [video shows highrise buildings, then Thatcher in middle of group of 12 men walking through crowds and brief shot of her talking to two small children]

She visited a self-service general store and talked to residents. [video shows Thatcher examining goods on display in supermarket, carrying bouquet of red flowers]

On receiving an invitation, she visited one of the flats. [video shows Thatcher, carrying bunch of pink flowers, going up stairway and brief shot of her talking to several people who block out view of flat's interior]

Margaret Thatcher looking down onto indoor cycling track, shot of coreboard with the message "The Krylatskoe trade union Olympic Sports Center welcomes the delegation from Great Britain"]

In the evening, the prime minister of Great Britain visited the USSR Bolshoy Theater for Chaykovskiy's ballet "Swan Lake." Together with her in the central box were Mikhail Gorbachev and spouse, and other Soviet and British officials. The state flags of Great Britain and the Soviet Union were hung from the central box. The orchestra played the national anthems of the two countries. [video shows long shot of box moving in to show Raisa Gorbacheva, Thatcher and Gorbachev standing applauding, translators behind them; long shot showing box with flags on either side as leaders stand to attention; brief medium shots of Thatcher and Gorbachev as the corresponding flags are mentioned]

Cited on USSR Trip Goals

PM271501 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Interview With the Prime Minister"]

[Text] London, 26 Mar -- "I will certainly use my visit to Moscow to explore ways to make progress in the arms control process," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in an interview here. This was reported by the PRESS ASSOCIATION.

According to Thatcher, Britain welcomed the statement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that the USSR will separate [vychlenit] an agreement on medium-range missiles without linking it in any way to "Star Wars."

At the same time, the prime minister stressed that Britain "cannot consider just one aspect of arms control in isolation from all the rest."

M. Thatcher also said that Britain is willing to play its part in attempts to establish peace in the Near East.

Londoners Response to Visit

PM300911 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "On Threshold of Visit"]

[Text] London, 28 Mar -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's official visit to the USSR and her talks in Moscow on topical problems of the international situation and of bilateral Anglo-Soviet relations are generating tremendous interest in Britain. [paragraph continues]

"Restructuring," "openness," and "democratization" -- these Russian words are to be frequently encountered in the flood of items about the Soviet Union and its people's life, which has increased sharply recently in the British newspapers and in radio and television reports and commentaries on the USSR. There are different opinions and assessments of the transformations taking place in Soviet society, and there are different attitudes toward them just as there are toward what the present visit by the head of the Conservative government may bring to international relations and to Britain.

What do British people themselves expect from the prime minister's trip to the Soviet Union? What is their attitude toward M. Thatcher's forthcoming mission? A TASS correspondent put these questions to passers-by on the London streets.

"Problems of arms control and the halting of the arms race should undoubtedly be at the center of Mrs Thatcher's talks with the Soviet leaders," Ann Rogers, an inhabitant of the London suburb of Southall, said. "Will there be a nuclear catastrophe or not? I not only welcome the Soviet initiatives on the elimination of all medium-range missiles in Europe, I also demand that Britain become an active participant in the implementation of these proposals, removing U.S. cruise missiles from its territory."

"What do I expect from the visit?" DAILY TELEGRAPH employee (Peter Maklin) repeats my question when I stop him in Fleet Street. "Probably the same as everyone -- dialogue and more mutual understanding. I do not support the ideas of unilateral nuclear disarmament for Britain. Nuclear armaments, in my opinion, have helped, as a deterrent factor, to preserve peace since World War II. But the level of military confrontation between East and West should be reduced, reduced through negotiations. Of course, I would like to see a world totally rid of nuclear weapons. But I believe that is unrealistic in the foreseeable future."

"What is your attitude toward President Reagan's assertions that the 'Strategic Defense Initiative" he proposes -- research work on which has been supported by the British Government -- is a guarantee of peace?

"My attitude is a negative one. I do not believe in 'Star Wars,'" (Peter Maklin) replied. "If weapons are put into space and are constantly hanging over your head, so to speak...then anything can happen. You remember the disaster involving the U.S. spaceship 'Challenger.' In my opinion, it is better to proceed along the path of nuclear disarmament."

What does lawyer Peter Green think of the visit?

"I approve of it, it's a very good thing. Relations between our countries are best built on the basis of friendship and cooperation, which I hope the prime minister's visit will promote."

Officer worker (Peter Tindoll) expressed a similar view:

"I would very much like M. Thatcher's visit to the Soviet Union to bring positive results," he said.

Soviet People 'Welcome' Visit

PM271715 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "On the Visit to the Soviet Union by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher"]

[Excerpts] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrives in the Soviet Union today on an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet leadership. [passage omitted]

M. Thatcher first visited the Soviet Union in 1969 as part of a parliamentary delegation.

Soviet people, who nurture feelins of respect for the people of Great Britian, welcome the arrival in the USSR of the head of the British Government and expect that the further development of our countries' political dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation will promote the strengthening of trust and stability in Europe and international security as well.

IZVESTIYA: UK Antinuclear Lobby

PM282017 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Krivopalov report: "Antinuclear Movement's 'Moscow Memorandum'"]

[Text] London -- On Friday, the IZVESTIYA office received a letter of invitation from the press department of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament [CND] in Britian. To where was I being invited?

Similar messages had evidently been sent to all the editorial offices of the leading British newspapers and to many foreign journalists working in the British capital. The British Isles' largest and most influential antiwar organization was informing us that a major demonstration was to be held outside the gates of the U.S. base at Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, on the morning of Saturday 28 March.

The point is that CND activists recently filmed a huge covered military transport entering the base. They assert that cruise missile launch equipment [apparatura] has started to be shipped into Molesworth.

THE GUARDIAN observes that London has no intention of altering plans to place [razmeshcheniye] 64 Tomahawk cruise missiles at Molesworth before the end of 1988 due to the talks being held in Geneva on eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

I called CND headquarters to find out about the upcoming demonstration at Molesworth. A press official told me that literally half and hour previously, a document had been delivered to the British Prime Minister's office pointing out, inter alia: "As Mrs M. Thatcher completes her preparations for talks with M.S. Gorbachev, representatives of British antiwar organizations have submitted to her office a 'Moscow Memorandum.' In this appeal, opponents of military preparations earnestly call on the prime minister to use her full authority in the interests of the speediest conclusion of an agreement in Geneva on eliminating all intermediate-range Pershing, cruise, and SS-20 missiles in both Western and Eastern Europe." [paragraph continues]

"Antiwar activists fear that to start placing [razmeshcheniye] cruise missiles at Molesworth this week would constitute anything but a positive signal to those conducting the talks in Geneva."

My telephone interlocutor told me, furthermore, that the memorandum contains four specific proposals to the British prime minister:

First, that she should agree to all necessary measures to monitor [kontrol] the observance of an agreement to eliminate intermediate-range missiles so as to ensure its effectiveness.

Second, that she should help create a good atmosphere for the talks in progress in Geneva by halting the construction work on new bases and the further placement [razmeshcheniye] of cruise missiles.

Third, that she should advance no prior conditions to the conclusion of an agreement on intermediate-range missiles, such as, for example, linkage [uvyavka] to operational-tactical weapons or the reduction of conventional arms.

Fourth, that she should abandon the Trident program in order not to obstruct the achievement of accords on strategic nuclear weapons.

I asked the CNO press official what [chairman] Paul Johns intended to say at the Molesworth base. [He said:] You can send to IZVESTIYA by way of an interview with him his latest comment:

"Starting the placement [razmeshcheniye] of cruise missiles at the very time when the USSR and the United States are nearing agreement on eliminating all intermediate-range missiles in Europe is an act of a staggering lack of concern. Mrs Thatcher seems to be pouring water into the gas tank while others are trying to drive the car."

The results of an opinion poll carried out by Gallup for THE DAILY TELEGRAPH have just been published. Some 56 percent of Britons polled believe that M.S. Gorbachev is making greater efforts for the reduction of nuclear arms than President Reagan (12 percent). Fifty-seven percent are convinced that the USSR wants good relations with the West. Three out of four approve of M. Thatcher's visit to Moscow.

UK Deployment Linked to Trip

PM300857 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 87 Second Edition p 5

[Report by unnamed own correspondent: "Building Up The Arsenal. Who Needs the New Missiles?"]

[Text] London, 25 Mar -- In a situation where the peoples of Europe and the world as a whole are impatiently awaiting the results of the USSR-U.S. talks on eliminating medium-range missiles on the European Continent, the NATO leaders are continuing to build up their arsenals of these deadly weapons.

This is evidenced by alarming reports that did the rounds of local editorial offices yesterday that siting of cruise missiles has begun at yet another U.S. airbase -- Molesworth in Cambridgeshire.

The alarming news was brought by members of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament who managed to photograph a massive covered truck of the kind that usually carries apparatus for launching cruise missiles as it entered the gates of the Molesworth base. U.S. Air Force Command and the British Ministry of Defense, THE GUARDIAN's military observer D. Fairhall writes, essentially confirmed that the siting of cruise missiles in Molesworth has begun, marking an important new stage in the buildup of the U.S. nuclear arsenal on British soil.

This fact, the correspondent writes, assumes special political significance in the context of the current East-West talks on ridding Europe of all missiles of that class, including Soviet SS-20 missiles, and, clearly, it forms part of the "arithmetic" Prime Minister Thatcher is taking to Moscow.

According to D. Fairhall, one explanation of what is, to put it mildly, an unusual step on the threshold of the Soviet-British talks is the fact that the NATO leaders effectively rule out the possibility of achieving a real "zero option" on medium-range missiles in Europe and therefore want to disperse the missiles over as many areas as possible in advance.

It goes without saying that the new militarist gesture by NATO appears out of place.

May See Thatcher

AU300820 Paris AFP in English 0819 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 30 (AFP) --Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrey Sakharov returned unexpectedly here early Monday after "resting" for about 10 days in the closed town of Gorkiy, some 400 kilometres (250 miles) from Moscow.

In a telephone conversation with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Sakharov, who was accompanied by his wife Ylena Bonner, however refused to say whether he had returned here to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, currently on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, British diplomats said that Mrs. Thatcher would be meeting at the British Embassy here Wednesday with several Soviet dissidents, including Jewish refuznik Iosif Begun. No other details were given about the identities of the other dissidents involved.

British diplomats and dissident sources said last week that Mr. Sakharov would come to Moscow from Gorkiy, where he spent seven years internal exile, if a meeting with Mrs. Thatcher had been set up.

He told AFP Monday that he had returned to Moscow because he had "many things to settle." Mr. Sakharov added that he could say "nothing concrete" about a possible meeting with Mrs. Thatcher.

More Trade Ties Wanted

PM301045 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 28 Mar 87 p 3

[M. Bogdanov "Commentary on the Day's Topic": "In the Hope of a Constructive Dialogue"]

[Text] British Prime Minister M. Thatcher arrives in the Soviet Union today. This is the first official visit to our country by a British premier for 12 years. [paragraph continues]

While welcoming the visit by the leader of a country for which Soviet people invariably feel respect and liking, we cannot, however, fail to recall with bitterness the lost years and opportunities, particularly the first years of the present Conservative government's rule, when certain British leaders publicly described the Soviet Union as a "sworn enemy."

The open hostility of Whitehall, which then preferred unreservedly to emulate the Reagan administration, the reluctance to develop political and business ties, the regular anti-Soviet campaigns -- all this led to unnecessary complications and had an adverse effect on the state of trade and economic ties between the two countries. By 1983, Britain, once the USSR's leading trade partner, found itself in ninth place, having let itself be overtaken by all its chief competitors among the developed capitalist countries.

What, then, has changed. Above all, the situation in the world and in Europe. With characteristic English pragmatism the British leadership realized that, with the socialist countries possessing a reliable defensive shield, the strong-arm strategy of containing communism preached by Washington is fraught with the risk of nuclear conflict in Europe and thus of Britain's physical destruction. However hard it tries to conceal the fact, London is displeased with U.S. attempts to undermine strategic stability in the world by shifting the arms race into space. Modern Britain cannot afford endless growth in spending on war preparations. The interests of integration in the European Community, where Britain is seeking to secure the leading role, also are pushing it toward a more realistic assessment of relations with the Soviet Uion than the U.S. assessment. "In the discussion of questions of East-West relations at European forums, our leaders lack sufficient knowledge of this subject," N. Henderson, a prominent British diplomat, points out. "In addition, the times now are too dangerous for us to afford to remain out of contact with one of the two leading world powers."

On the "home front," the Tory cabinet is being pressured both by the powerful antiwar movement, which demands that the government take a more constructive approach to the peace-loving Soviet initiatives in the disarmament sphere, and by the interest of Brisith business in developing mutually advantageous trade and economic ties with socialist countries.

In 1983, the Thatcher cabinet embarked on a revision of its policy toward the Soviet Union. This was significantly influenced by the December 1984 visit to the British Isles of a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev, during which the task, in particular, of substantially expanding Soviet-British trade was set. Since then there has been an appreciable revival of contacts between the USSR and Britain in the political, economic, scientific, technical, cultural, and other areas. However, for the regrettable relapses into hostility committed by the British side (such as, for example, the large-scale provocative action over the expulsion of 31 Soviet representatives in September 1985), it would be possible, on the whole, to acknowledge that our relations have been developing quite satisfactorily in the past few years, particularly in comparison to the recent past.

The prospects for growth in Soviet-British trade and scientific and technical exchanges are of special interest.

Of course, the British have something to offer in these areas. Although it is said that the former "workshop of the world" is losing its leading positions in world economic markets, that country has many achievements in industry, agriculture, fundamental and applied science, production management, and the organization of trade.

As a result of the purposeful efforts of Soviet foreign policy and foreign trade organizations, which have elicited interest among representatives of British industry, as well as recently meeting with support from the British Government, the deadlock in Soviet-British relations has now finally been overcome. Last year the Program for the Development of Economic and Industrial Cooperation in 1986-1990 was signed. In January of this year an agreement on credit for exports of British goods to the USSR came into force. Bilateral symposiums and conferences have begun to be held more frequently with the participation of business circles. The activation of contacts has not been slow to affect Soviet-British trade: Its two-way volume totaled R1.8 billion in 1986, and Britain has emerged in sixth place among developed capitalist countries in terms of the level of trade turnover with the USSR.

Scientific and technical contacts based on a solid contractual and legal foundation also are developing very successfully. Thus a Memorandum on Cooperation in the Sphere of the Fuel and Energy Complex was signed between the USSR and Britain in 1986. Agreements in the areas of nuclear science and technology and of medicine and health care, which the British side suspended in 1982, have been revalidated. British Energy Secretary P. Walker, who visited the USSR twice last year, held talks on expanding cooperation with the State Committee for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Power and Electrification, the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation, the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, and other Soviet departments. He visited Chernobyl, where he was familiarized with the results of the work on eliminating the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl AES.

However, what has been achieved is no more than the beginning of the road. Much still has to be done to increase turnover in Soviet-British trade by 40-50 percent over the next few years — a task advanced by M.S. Gorbachev during his stay in London. Great potential opportunities exist, in particular, in areas such as the chemical industry, the extraction and processing of oil, gas, and coal, electronics, robot technology, the aviation industry, shipbuilding, power metallurgy, and the intensification of agricultural production. Both sides would benefit considerably from concluding an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in the area of railroad transport.

The British side in principle shows an interest in participation in mixed enterprises, but an accord in this regard has been reached with just one British firm -- Quest Automation. There are still a number of obstacles in the way of mutually advantageous trade, economic, scientific, and technical exchanges between the Soviet Union and Britain. These include the low technical and commercial competitiveness of a number of British tenders in comparison to the USSR's other Western trade partners, the one-sided restrictions within the framework of the so-called "Cocom lists" agreed to by the West, as well as the persistent quantitative ceilings on imports of a number of Soviet goods into Britain.

I would like to hope that these problems will be at least partly solved during the upcoming Soviet-British talks in Moscow. The Soviet side has repeatedly taken steps in this direction. The Soviet Union has not overlooked the statement which British Foreign Secretary G. Howe made in 1984. Evidently wishing to emphasize the "irreversibility" of the progress then apparent in Soviet-British relations, the head of British diplomacy said, in particular: "There exists a need to maintain a patient, steady dialogue with the Soviet Union from the present ad infinitum."

The Soviet-British talks in Moscow due in the next few days will undoubtedly sho how responsibly Britain's present Conservative leadership treats its own statements.

SYRIA'S AL-ASAD TO VISIT MOSCOW EARLY APRIL

LD271425 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (KUNA) -- A reliable Arab diplomatic source stated here today that the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad will pay a state visit to the USSR at the beginning of next month to discuss urgent Middle East issues with the Soviet leaders.

The source told KUNA that the visit will most probably take place "during the coming week" following the visit to Moscow of the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The souree said that the Iraq-Iranian war and the situation in Lebanon will head the topics to be discussed by the Syrians and Soviets, this is in addition to the Palestine Question.

President Hafiz al-Asad was scheduled to visit the USSR 2 weeks ago, but the new turn of events in Lebanon and the visit of the Lebanese President, Amin al-Jumayyil, to Damascus made him postpone the visit.

ORLOV-LED DELEGATION MEETS WITH JORDAN'S PREMIER

LD300902 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation headed by Comrade Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is on an official visit in Amman, has been received by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. During their friendly conversation there was a thorough exchange of opinions on the situation in the Arab world, on a number of international problems, and on the prospects for the development of relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union. Al-Rifa'i expressed satisfaction at the state of relations between the two countries and hoped that they would develop further in an ascendant line. The head of the Soviet delegation noted that the achievement of an all-embracing and just settlement in the region is the main aim of the Soviet Union's policy in the Middle East.

CONGRATULATORY CABLE SENT TO MOROCCAN KING

PM261525 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent King Hassan II of Morocco a telegram, congratulating the king and wishing him good health and prosperity and wishing the friendly Moroccan people success and progress, on the occasion of the country's national day. The telegram expresses confidence that the relations of traditional friendship and fruitful cooperation existing between the two countries will continue to develop for the benefit of the peoples of the Soviet Union and Morocco, in the interests of strengthening peace and international security.

In a reply telegram addressed to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the king of Morocco has expressed sincere gratitude for the greetings and, for his part, has conveyed to the Soviet people wishes for their progress, prosperity, and peace.

BILATERAL FISHING PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH YEMEN

PM261447 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Report by own correspondent V. Belyakov: "Routine Session"]

[Text] Aden, 18 Mar -- A routine session of the USSR-People's Democratic Republic of Yemen joint commission on marine fishing has been held here. A protocol signed at the session provides for steps to further expand cooperation between our countries in that area.

UAE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, CULTURE INTERVIEWED

PM241435 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "For the Development of Ties"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Mar -- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) are striving to develop ties with the Soviet Union -- a power which pursues a friendly policy toward the Arab peoples, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamad, UAE minister of information and culture, told a TASS special correspondent. He stressed that UAE-USSR relations, based on the principles of mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, serve the cause of peace, justice, and development.

Firmly adhering to the principles of love of peace, the UAE participates in regional and international peace-making forums. Last fall, the minister recalled, a UAE delegation participated in the international "Muslims in the Struggle for Peace" conference in Baku and made its own contribution to the cause of the struggle for peace, the ending of the arms race, and the reduction of nuclear arsenals, the minister pointed out.

Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamad condemned Tel Aviv's aggressive policy in the Near East and called for a speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war.

IZVESTIYA INTERVIEWS ALGERIAN ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

PM261531 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Report on interview with Rabah Bitat, president of the Algerian National People's Assembly, by IZVESTIYA's Algiers correspondent V. Neznamov in Algiers, published under the rubric "IZVESTIYA Interview": "USSR-Algeria: High Level of Cooperation" -- no date given; first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] The 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria [DPRA] falls on 23 March. On the occasion of this memorable date, IZVESTIYA's Algiers correspondent V. Neznamov interviewed Rabah Bitat, president of the National People's Assembly.

First of all, he said, I would like to convey to Soviet people fraternal greetings from the Algerian people and to express our gratification with the high level of mutually advantageous Algerian-Soviet cooperation.

The 25-year jubilee is a good opportunity to recall that the Soviet Union was on the Algerian people's side during the war for national liberation and rendered them support in diverse forms. Thus, the present relations developed and strengthened on the basis of the two peoples' shared commitment to the ideals of a society free from exploitation, inequality, and injustice.

This common view gave an impetus to the establishment of Algerian-Soviet ties. Regular relations of cooperation and a practice of consultations were established between the parties, governments, and parliaments of our two countries.

The visit to the USSR by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the DPRA and general secretary of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Party, which took place a year ago, was a particularly important aspect of this multifaceted process. The results of achievements were summed up, and a new stage was planned for the development of Algerian-Soviet cooperation to enable it to respond in the best possible way to the aspirations of our peoples and the cause of improving the international political climate and ensuring world peace and security.

As president of the National People's Assembly, I would also like to mention the fruitful development of ties between the USSR and Algerian parliaments and to express our readiness to further expand contacts with the USSR Supreme Soviet. I am convinced of the importance of cooperation along this line in order to achieve greater mutual understanding between our peoples and to strengthen their solidarity in the anti-imperialist struggle. It is from this viewpoint that I perceive my recent visit to Moscow at the USSR Supreme Soviet's invitation. The warmth with which the Algerian delegation was received and the fruitful nature of the talks we had provided further proof of the high level of Algerian-Soviet cooperation.

With regard to the recent elections for deputies to the National People's Assembly, Rabah Bitat went on to note that, in its present composition, it will play an important role in continuing the process of the republic's socioeconomic building.

The mass participation of citizens in the elections attests to the people's trust in the FLN Party and its leadership headed by Chadli Bendjedid, and also in the system of power based on the principles of people's democracy and one-party rule. The election results confirm Algerians' will to participate fully in determining the goals of national development, elaborating the necessary decisions, and monitoring their implementation.

Replying to a question on the role of Algerian parliamentarians in the international arena, Rabah Bitat emphasized that this role is active and dynamic. Within the IPU framework the deputies consistently uphold the just cause of the peoples struggling against colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, apartheid, and racism.

The DPRA supreme legislative organ's efforts are also aimed at improving the international climate in the world, which can be achieved only along the path of establishing a new international economic order, respecting each state's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and recognizing the right of peoples to decide their fate for themselves.

As regards the problems of peace and disarmament, Rabah Bitat said in conclusion, we are aware that the question today essentially concerns mankind's existence. All peoples and all countries must feel affected by these key problems. This is precisely why our activity pursues the goal of establishing a universal system of collective security and implementing disarmament, above all nuclear disarmament.

TASS NOTES TUNIS SEVERS TIES WITH IRAN

LD261828 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis March 26 TASS -- The Tunisian Government has decided to break off diplomatic ties with Iran.

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry in a communique out here said that the decision had been prompted by the Iranian Embassy's activities in this country that were "incompatible with diplomatic etiquette" and had assumed the form of "open violation of the rules determining the framework of diplomatic activity."

PRAVDA HITS PRESENCE OF U.S. 'ARMADA' NEAR GULF

PM261407 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Vladimir Peresada "Commentator's Column": "Fist Above The Gulf"]

[Text] The United States has assembled an armada of 18 ships, headed by the assault aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk," in the Arabian Sea at the entrance to the Persian Gulf. It is an unprecedented concentration of U.S. Naval Forces in the region.

Formally Washington is linking its militarist act to the deterioration of the Iran-Iraq conflict, and specifically to the growth of the so-called "tanker war" in the Persian Gulf during which there has been an increasing number of attacks on ships passing through it. The immediate reason, THE NEW YORK TIMES writes, is U.S. intelligence reports that Iran has deployed missile batteries on the shore of the narrow Strait of Hormuz, linking the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea, and intends, the Pentagon believes, to use them to secure total control of the important supply line. That is why, apparently, the United States sent its warships there.

But for what purpose? U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger enthusiastically insists that "it is a matter of having to guarantee the safety of international shipping." It is obvious, of course, that normal conditions of navigation in the Persian Gulf were seriously disrupted long ago, and any new measure by either of the warring sides to intensify the "tanker war" can only destabilize the situation even more. But what is the United States doing there with its military fist? After all, it is clear that the presence of the U.S. armada and the increasing threats to "utilize its might" have nothing to do with the safety of shipping. In fact, the U.S. action (and this is admitted even in countries that are U.S. allies) poses perhaps the biggest threat to navigation in the gulf. Moreover, the BBC warns, Washington's actions could well lead to unforeseen consequences.

Clearly, Washington is in fact using the development of the situation on the shores of the Persian Gulf as a convenient excuse for intensifying the U.S. military presence there and implementing U.S. imperialism's long-standing strategic design -- to take control of the world's busiest oil supply route with U.S. gunboats. And, at the same time, by ostentatiously pressuring Iran and feigning concern for the interests of the Arab states in the gulf zone, to distract world public attention from "Irangate." Now isn't that Machiavellian? Yesterday they supplied Iran with weapons on the sly, inciting it to continue the war with Iraq, including the "tanker war," while today they are angry at "Tehran's actions," thus justifying their own armed interference in the region.

The attempt to block the Persian Gulf with a U.S. squadron is yet another dangerous Washington adventure.

COMMENTATOR ON 'SPY STATIONS' ALLEGATIONS

NC282200 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1700 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Vera Lebedeva commentary, read by announcer]

[Text] Tehran's officials have refuted a report by the U.S. television network ABC alleging that there are several secret Soviet electronic spy stations on Iranian territory. The U.S. propaganda machine, which is disseminating such fabrications, acts according to the adage that the bigger the lie, the more likely it is to be believed. But one would have to be extremely naive to be fooled by such propaganda; and there are increasingly fewer naive people to be found anywhere now.

However, the fabrications on the existence of Soviet electronic centers in Iran were produced to further specific objectives. First and foremost among these was Washington's desire to create a schism between the Soviet Union and Iran by allegations of this kind, and to mar the good relations between the two neighboring countries. Furthermore, the anti-Soviet and anti-Iranian commotion which was started on the other side of the ocean was intended to justify U.S. military presence near the Iranian borders. There are at present 18 U.S. warships, headed by the flagship "Kitty Hawk", in the Arabian Sea near the Strait of Hormuz. It should be recalled that the "Kitty Hawk," "Enterprise," and "Constellation" always appear near Iranian coasts at the most critical moments. These ships patrolled the Persian Gulf waters during the anti-shah revolution and during those days in which the destiny of your country was decided. The planes that landed troops on Iranian territory in April 1980 took off from the "Nimitz."

The Americans always find a pretext to justify their anti-Iranian provocations. At one time they alleged that they wanted to support the shah's so-called legal regime. At another time they attempted to rescue the hostages who had been arrested in Iran on charges of spying. Now Washington is using the Iran-Iraq war, in the exacerbation of which the U.S. imperialists were themselves involved, as an excuse to interfere in a region which is thousands of kilometers away from the United States.

Facts prove that Washington continues, as before, to pursue an extremely hostile adventuristic policy toward Iran, and is threating its security, PRAVDA recently wrote: Apparently Washington is actually exploiting the present trend of events on the shores of the Persian Gulf as a suitable pretext for a build-up of U.S. military presence in this part of the world. It is also seeking to carry out the old strategic plan of U.S. imperialism to control the world's most productive oil routes by U.S. gunboats. PRAVDA added: At the same time, by inflicting sham pressure on Iran and pretending to sympathize with the interests of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, Washington wants to distract the world's attention from the Irangate scandal.

TALYZIN LEADS DELEGATION TO MOZAMBIQUE

LD281010 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0905 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow 28 Mar (TASS) -- A Soviet party and state delegation led by Nikolay Talyzin, Politburo candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, today left Moscow for Maputo at the invitation of the Mozambican leadership to take part in the celebrations on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Making up the delegation are A.N. Shchepetilnikov, minister of construction in the southern regions of the USSR; V. I. Ignatyev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; A.L. Adamishin, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs; A. Yu. Urnov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and Ye. Ye. Kondakov, chief of a main directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by P. N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Politburo Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and by other officials. Among those at the airport was P.G. Sengo, ambassador for Mozambique.

[Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 28 March, in the "Vremya" program, carries a report on the departure of the Soviet party and state delegation led by Nikolay Talyzin for Mozambique which adds: "While enroute to Maputo today, the Soviet Delegation stopped off in Aden, the capital of the PDRY."]

Maputo Arrival Statement

LD291807 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Maputo March 29 TASS -- Nikolay Talyzin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, has emphasized the importance of the treaty between the USSR and Mozambique for the development of all-round Soviet-Mozambican cooperation.

He is leading a Soviet party and state delegation which arrived in Maputo today to attend celebrations on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation Between the USSR and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Talyzin pointed out in his statement made in the airport that the Soviet Union was determined to further strengthen the ties of friendship with people's Mozambique, to actively develop cooperation with it in all the spheres and to jointly participate in the struggle of all the peace-minded nations for warding off the menace of a nuclear war in the world.

Talyzin conveyed to the Mozambican people and their leaders fraternal greetings and kind wishes of the Soviet people, Soviet leadership and personally of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Reception Honors Talyzin

LD300920 Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Maputo March 30 TASS -- "The Mozambican people, who know well what war is regard themselves as an integral part of the universal movement for peace and security throughout the world", stated Marcelino dos Santos, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, president of the People's Assembly of Mozambique.

He spoke on Sunday at a reception given in honour of the Soviet party- and state-delegation led by Nikolay Talyzin, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee.

The delegation is currently here to attend the celebrations on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Mozambique.

"The elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, making the oceans and outer space zones of peace, the proclamation of the Indian Ocean and other regions of the world free from nuclear weapons," Marcelino dos Santos said, "are the goals of this battle for peace. This is why we welcome the recent statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the issue of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe".

"Mozambique supports all the initiatives of the international community aimed at isolating the racist regime of Pretoria and at eradicating apartheid".

"We welcome the Soviet Union's firm stand on this issue and express satisfaction with the assistance which it renders to Mozambique and to other countries of southern Africa in diplomatic and economic fields, and in the cause of strengthening their defence capacity," Marcelino dos Santos emphasized.

"Today we can say with confidence that over the past decade the principles recorded in the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Mozambique have reaffirmed their vital power", pointed out the leader of the Soviet delegation, Nikolay Talyzin.

"These principles -- respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, equal cooperation, interaction in the fight for peace, international security and disarmament, against the forces of imperialism, neocolonialism and racism -- have been and remain the solid foundation of our relations and of their further development."

"The explosive situation which keeps on in the south of Africa also calls for close cooperation between the Soviet Union and Mozambique", Nikolay Talyzin pointed out.

"A solution to the problems of the region is impossible without collective efforts with a view to repulsing the Pretoria racist regime's aggressive intrigues against neighbouring countries, without the granting of independence to Namibia on the basis of the respective U.N. resolutions and, finally, without the elimination of the abominable system of apartheid in the Republic of South Africa".

"In these issues," he said, "we act from common positions. They are open and honest and rely on the will of the entire international community".

TASS NOTES USSR-MOZAMBIQUE TREATY ANNIVERSARY

LD200820 Moscow TASS in English 0750 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Maputo March 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Boris Bogdanov reports:

The 10th anniversary of the Treaty on Friendship and 'Cooperation between the USSR and Mozambique' is marked in the People's Republic of Mozambique as an event of great political significance. Signed on March 31, 1977, this document became an important landmark in the development of bilateral relations.

Fisheries, geology, agriculture, education, health service and energy -- it is hard to name an area which is not covered by cooperation between the two countries. Friendship linking the USSR and Mozambique originated in the years when the Mozambican people waged heroic struggle against colonial oppression. The day of independence of the republic became the day of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Hundreds of Soviet specialists render technical assistance to the People's Republic of Mozambique today. They include workers at a ship repair complex in Maputo, fisherman of the joint Soviet-Mozambican society Mosopeshka, staff of Eduardo Mondlane University and many others. The USSR helped set up 8 vocational schools for training worker and technicians of 32 trades. Over a decade Soviet medical workers rendered assistance to 150,000 Mozambicans. More than 200,000 inhabitants of Gaza Province hit by drought received water due to the efforts of Soviet geologists. There are close links between the CPSU and the Frelimo Party, trade union, youth and women's organisations of the two countries.

These days meetings are held in work collectives devoted to the jubilee and newspapers and magazines publish materials on Soviet-Mozambican cooperation. "It is impossible not to see how multifaceted and large our cooperation is," the TEMPO weekly writes. "Economy, culture, and social sphere give us examples of steady progress in the development of Soviet-Mozambican relations."

Moscow TASS in English at 0718 GMT on 30 March 1987 in a Moscow datelined item reports that "the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government have sent most cordial and heartfelt congratulations to the leaders and people of Mozambique on the 10th anniversary of a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries. In the cable, which was published here today, they wished the friendly Mozambican people happiness, well-being, and every success in fulfilling the noble tasks set by the Frelimo party."

MOZAMBIQUE RADIO INTERVIEWS RYZHKOV

LD290049 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0758 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 28 Mar (TASS) -- One result of the decade since the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Mozambique, which is one of no little importance, is the fact that the peoples of our countries, separated as they are by many thousands of kilometers, know each other better, and we can see more clearly the problems which must be resolved during the process of cooperation, said Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the treaty he had a friendly conversation in the Kremlin with the director general of Radio Mozambique, Leite de Vasconselos, and replied to his questions.

The strengthening of many-sided ties with the liberated countries, support for their struggle against the neocolonialist policy of imperialism and for freedom, independence and national dignity -- such is the CPSU's principled position, Nikolay Ryzhkov stressed. It is precisely such an approach which lies at the basis of our relations with the People's Republic of Mozambique.

We actively support this country's efforts aimed at doing away with the backwardness left by the colonialists and at repulsing those who infringe the country's independence and territorial integrity.

Having named a fair number of the concrete cooperation projects between the two countries, the head of the Soviet Government noted that there are certain problems within this cooperation. We are not walking away from solving them, he stressed, while considering that there are not a few unused opportunities for improving relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of Mozambique. We intend to discuss these questions with our Mozambican friends in the near future.

Answering a question on the situation in southern Africa, the chairman of the Council of Ministers noted that the Soviet Union comes out in firm and consistent support for eliminating the disgraceful apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa and wholly supports the heroic struggle being waged against the racists by the South African patriots, headed by the ANC [African National Congress].

Speaking about the African "Frontline" States, Ryzhkov noted that countries like Mozambique and Angola are victims of the undeclared war which the racists and their hirelings have been waging against them for many years now. Naturally, the head of the Soviet Government emphasized, the USSR cannot be indifferent to such a situation. In the USSR the "Frontline" States have a reliable and true friend.

Replying to a question about the present day international situation, Ryzhkov noted that because of the forces of imperialism the situation in the world remains complex and dangerous.

In present day conditions, a policy of strength and war cannot be a means of solving international problems, and a desire for military superiority cannot bring political gain to anyone, since no one can win a nuclear war or even an arms race, stressed Ryzhkov.

The Soviet Union is a principled opponent of a nuclear war and has made a commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, Ryzhkov continued. He recalled the USSR's major foreign policy initiatives, among which the program to eliminate nuclear weapons before the end of the present century and also the comprehensive system of international security, put forward by the 27th CPSU Congress, occupy a special place.

The active position of the CPSU and the Soviet state in international affairs is an expression of the new political thinking, without which there can be no mutually acceptable solutions and accords in the interests of the survival of mankind, the head of the Soviet Government said. In the struggle to maintain peace and to affirm the just principles of international security we attach great significance to interaction and solidarity with the liberated countries.

Nikolay Ryzhkov answered a question on the process of restructuring which is underway in the country. In it we have laid down a foundation for the enormous work to implement the thoroughgoing changes in the life of the Soviet Union. We have essentially entered a new stage in the country's development, he said. The main part of restructuring has only just started and the most difficult bit still lies ahead. To carry out everything we have planned, the country and the people will need a maximum mobilization of forces and comprehensive utilization of the possibilities of socialism.

In November this year the Soviet people will be celebrating on a wide scale the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Our country, stressed the head of the Soviet Government, is the first where socialism has been put into practice. In the revolutionary transformations of October are to be found an inexhaustible source of the vital force of the socialist system and a source of confidence in the fact that we will fulfill everything we have planned.

MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

LD291707 Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 29 TASS -- A party and state delegation of Mozambique led by Jorge Rebelo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party, arrived in Moscow today to attend celebrations on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and Mozambique.

PRAVDA COMMENTS ON 'FLAMES OF WAR' IN CHAD

PM271454 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Aleksandr Serbin "Commentator's Column": "Who Is Fanning the Flames of War"]

[Text] Hostilities in Chad are taking on an increasing scale. [paragraph continues]

The Ndjamena grouping, urged from outside and relying on the presence of a French interventionist corps in the southern part of the country, has recently launched operations to the north of the 16th parallel, in regions, controlled by the National Unity Transition Government (GUNT). This parallel has for some years formed an unofficial boundary dividing the forces of Ndjamena and the GUNT, and its observance had left some hope of a settlement of the internal conflict by peaceful means.

Today Ndjamena regime forces, of considerable numerical strength, are operating beyond the 16th parallel. According to statements from the Chadian capital they recently seized the settlement of Ouadi Doum. THe GUNT forces, in turn, have carried out a number of successful operations and captured several mercenaries from France, the United States, and Zaire, who were participating in fighting on the side of the Ndjamena regime. A stepping up of hostilities has also been noted in other regions.

Reports on the hostilities in Chad are sometimes contradictory. It is beyond dispute that the interference by imperialist powers in the conflict in Chad imposes severe trials on the Chadians. The interference is continuing to widen. In 3 months the United States has delivered to the Ndjamena regime arms and military materiel worth $15 million, and is now preparing to send it a new consignment of instruments of death, worth another $10 million. France has sent to Chad, apart from troops, weapons and combat hardware worth more than $40 million. The outcome of the fighting for Ouadi Doum was declared a "strategic victory" in France and the United States. It was no secret that the fighting was linked to the equipping of Ndjamena's troops with sophisticated military hardware, including missiles, and to the actions of foreign military advisers. Over there, outside Chad's borders, people predict, or rather order, how the hostilities should develop. The region Ndjamena's forces will head for next has already been named -- the oasis of Faya-Largeau, which is also in the north.

The objective of the imperialists is becoming increasingly clearly defined -- to consolidate their position in Chad and make it a bridgehead for their policy on the African Continent. An additional danger for Africa lies in the fact that the military activity of foreigners in Chad has begun to spill over the border. The Sudanese Government recently protested the violation of the country's airspace by French military aircraft.

The brief history of independent Chad has unfortunately already suffered repeated instances of foreign military interference. That has never brought peace to the country, but only led to the exacerbation of the domestic situation. The OAU is helping to find the key to the resolution of the Chad problem through talks and compromise. Good will, a sense of national responsibility, and the desire to see the country united could open the way out of the conflict. Imperialist military interference can only fan the flames of war and damage the Chadians' interests.

PRAVDA CITES MENGISTU ADDRESS TO ETHIOPIAN PLENUM

PM261811 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[I. Tarutin report: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 24 Mar -- The Sixth Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) Central Committee Plenum has been held. Head of State Mengistu Haile Mariam delivered a report. He said that extremely important events are taking place in the political life of the country. The draft constitution of the future democratic republic was recently approved in a national referendum. [paragraph continues]

Preparations to proclaim the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia are now in the final stage: the nomination of candidates and elections to the National Assembly. The Ethiopian leader pointed out that it is essential to ensure the masses' democratic participation in the elections and carefully approach the selection of candidates to the supreme organ of power, as they will hold very responsible positions.

Among the economic issues touched on in the report the greatest attention was given to the tasks of developing agricultural production. The foreign policy section of the report reaffirmed Ethiopia's loyalty to the principles of good-neighborliness and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. It expressed the desire to develop relations with neighboring and other states on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON U.S. BASE IN ZAIRE

LD261516 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 26 TASS -- Commenting on news reports that a Zairean-U.S. joint fortnight-long exercise is to begin in Zaire on April 18 and that the United States is completing work to modernize a major air base in Kamina, Shaba, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said today it is disquieting that the United States was increasing its military activity in the immediate proximity of Angolan borders, in an area of heightened military-political tension.

Speaking at a press briefing here, Boris Pyadyshev added that concern was being expressed in a number of African nations that the Kamina base would be used not only to airlift arms and other supplies for UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs in Angola but also as a jumping-off board for U.S. interference in practically any country south of Sahara.

The setting up of such a jumping-off board, he said, effectively meant U.S. transition from covert subversive actions against African nations to direct interference, including military intervention, in their affairs.

Pyadyshev called attention also to news reports that other NATO countries would also be able to use the Kamina base, which, he said, would definitely increase the threat to the sovereignty and stability of African nations.

Such U.S. actions, he stressed, were not only contrary to the interests of African countries but also in defiance of decisions by international organizations, including the Organization of African Unity, on the inadmissibility of establishing foreign bases in African territory.

"One cannot fail to notice that such activities are taking place at a time when the 'Frontline' States, the OAU, the United Nations and the international public are looking for a peaceful, political way of defusing the dangerous situation in southern Africa.

"All this demonstrates that the United States is continuing to steer its neo-globalist course and engage in power politics with regard to African nations," Pyadyshev said.

VOSKANYAN-LED DELEGATION VISITS COLOMBIA

LD292237 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1900 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 29 Mar (TASS) -- The visit to Colombia of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, headed by G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has ended. The Soviet delegation was seen off at the International Airport by members of the leadership of the Colombian congress and other officials. The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet has left for Peru.

Colombian Coverage

For Colombian coverage of the visit of a Supreme Soviet delegation, led by Deputy Chairman Grant Voskanyan, to Colombia, see the Colombia section of the 27 March Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SHEVARDNADZE SEES CHEBRIKOV OFF FOR CUBA

LD270830 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 27 TASS -- Viktor Chebrikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Security Committee, left Moscow for Havana today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Government of the republic.

At the airport he was seen off by Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and other officials.

Raul Castro Welcomes Chebrikov

LD280234 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0115 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 28 Mar (TASS) -- V.M. Chebrikov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Committee for State Security, has arrived on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Government of the Republic of Cuba. At the Jose Marti International Airport, he was met by Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, first vice president of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the republic and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and by other officials. A.S. Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador in the Republic of Cuba, was also among those meeting him.

Meets Fidel Castro

LD300220 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Chebrikov who is in Cuba on an official friendly visit has met Fidel Castro in Havana. Comrade Chebrikov conveyed to Fidel Castro and the entire Cuban leadership cordial greetings and good wishes from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders.

Fidel Castro described work under way in Cuba to implement the decisions of the Third Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. Comrade Chebrikov provided information on the first results of fulfillment in the USSR of decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and on progress in restructuring and renewal in various areas of the life of Soviet society. Fidel Castro spoke highly of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum and wished Soviet Communists and all working people of the Soviet Union success in their very rapid implementation.

Comrade Chebrikov laid a wreath in Havana at the monument to Jose Marti the national hero of the Cuban people. [Video shows Chebrikov at wreath laying ceremony at Jose Marti monument.]

Comrade Chebrikov laid a wreath at the monument to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin in the park named after the leader of the world proletariat in the Cuban capital today.

[Moscow, TASS International Service in Russian at 1640 GMT on 29 March, in a Havana-datelined item on Chebrikov's activities, notes that he also visited the Havana Botanical Gardens accompanied by Julian Rizo Alvarez, candidate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee and member of the Cuban Communist Party Secretariat, and Lieutenant General General Jose Abrahantes, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and minister of the interior.]

Cuban Reportage

For Cuban reportage on the visit of Viktor Chebrikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR State Security Committee to Cuba, see the Cuba section of the 30 March Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

DECREE SETS LOCAL ELECTION DATE FOR 21 JUNE

LD282122 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2004 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] In accordance with the appropriate articles of the Constitution -- Fundamental Laws -- of the Union Republics of the USSR, and of the laws on elections to local soviets of people's deputies, the presidiums of the supreme soviets of the union republics have adopted decrees on setting elections to local soviets of people's deputies on Sunday 21 June 1987. The presidiums of the supreme soviets of the republics have adopted resolutions on the holding, as an experiment, of elections to individual local soviets of people's deputies on the basis of multiseat constituencies. The resolutions are being published in the newspapers.

Elections to local organs of state power of the autonomous republics have also been set for 21 June. By decrees of the presidiums of the supreme soviets of the Russian federation and of other union republics, elections of people's judges of rayon urban people's courts have also been set for 21 June 1987. In April and May, elections will be held of people's assessors of rayon urban people's courts.

YELTSIN CHAIRS MOSCOW SOVIET PARTY GROUP

PM261543 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Moscow City Soviet Party Group"]

[Text] A routine meeting of the Moscow City Soviet party group, held 14 March before the session of the Moscow City Soviet of People's Deputies, examined cadres questions.

The meeting was chaired by Party Group Chairman Comrade B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of the CPSU Gorkom.

Hears of 'Negligent' Officials

PM261549 [Editorial Report] Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 March 1987 carries on page 1 under the headline "In the Moscow Gorispolkom" an 800-word report on a recent Moscow Gorispolkom session.

According to the report, the gorispolkom examined proposals for the second stage of Arbat Street reconstruction, the situation regarding operations by the network of brand-name stores in Moscow noting the "extremely unsatisfactory work by numerous brand-name stores," and the question of "gross violations in financial and economic operations and of plan discipline by the 'Soyuzrestavratsiya' and 'Rosrestavratsiya' Associations." The report notes these were attributed to the "criminally negligent attitudes to their duties of Comrades I.S. Korobkov and V.M. Dvoryashin, leaders of the 'Soyuzrestavratsiya' and 'Rosrestavratsiya' Associations, and a lack of proper monitoring by the USSR and RSFSR Ministries of Culture."

It is reported that the ministries have been asked to examine the question of whether "the leaders in question are suitable to occupy their positions."

"The Moscow Gorispolkom asked the City People's Control Committee and the RSFSR Prosecutor's Office to examine the submission by the RSFSR Ministry of Finance Control and Auditing Administration that the culprits should be called to account."

The report ends: "Comrade B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, took part in the work of the Moscow Gorispolkom session."

DEMICHEV ATTENDS YOUTH COMMISSIONS SESSION

LD260550 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1650 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of youth commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet took place in the Kremlin today. The question of organizing the work on formation of youths' active position in the life and assertion of the socialist way of life by the Soviets of People's Deputies of Mangyshlak Oblast in Kazakhstan was examined. The commissions provided specific recommendations on enlivening educational work in all directions and increasing the contribution of youth to the acceleration of socioeconomic development.

Comrade Demichev participated in the session.

DOLGIKH ADDRESSES COAL INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

LD280401 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Hello, Comrades. The tasks concerning an improvement in the efficiency of the industrial science of the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum, were discussed at a conference held at the Mining Institute on 27 March. The activity of industrial research, design, and planning institutes was critically analyzed, as well as their contribution to the improvement of the scientific and technical level of the coal industry. Comrade Dolgikh spoke at the conference.

LEADERS OPEN KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY CONGRESS

LD240959 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] To strive to work enthusiastically and creatively -- this is the aim of lecturers and activists of the RSFSR Society for Knowledge. Its eighth congress opened in the Great Kremlin Palace in Moscow today. Comrades Aliyev, Vorotnikov, Demichev, Yeltsin and Yakovlev, leading representatives of a number of ministries and departments, prominent scientists, and representatives of party, state and public organizations are on the platform.

A report on the society's tasks in the light of decisions of the 27th Congress of the party and the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum was presented by Academician Obraztsov, chairman of the board of the society.

Naming those with positive experiences -- the Leningrad, Krasnodar, Moscow and Chelyabinsk organizations -- the speaker underlined at the same time that the quality of performance far from always corresponds with the increased demands set by the times. On the whole, lecturing propaganda is used poorly in shaping people's sense of duty in the spirit of restructuring and activation of the human factor.

The congress continues its work.

PLENUMS HELD AT REPUBLIC, OBLAST LEVEL

LD290023 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Mar 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today plenums were held in many republic and oblast party organizations; they discussed tasks for deepening restructuring and improving work with cadres in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum. Plenums of the Central Committees of republic communist parties were held in Tashkent, Ashkhabad, and Tallinn. Plenums of party oblast committees were held in Leningrad and Chelyabinsk, while in Syktyvkar, at a plenum of the Komi Oblast party committee, an organizational issue was examined. The plenum released Comrade Morozov from the duties of first secretary of the party oblast committee in connection with his retirement on pension. Comrade Melnikov was elected first secretary of the party oblast committee; he has worked as chairman of the Komi ASSR Council of Ministers.

PRAVADA on Ukrainian Plenum

PM271841 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Correspondents M. Odinets and I. Tikhomirov report: "The Cause of Each and Every One. The CPSU Central Committee January Plenum Decisions on the Agenda"]

[Text] Kiev -- The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum in Kiev lasted 2 days, and discussed the tasks of the republic's party organizations on the deepening of restructuring and the improvement of work with cadres in line with the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions. V.V. Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, delivered the report. The main speaker and those who spoke in the debate said that Communists and working people in the republic, just as everywhere else in the country, unanimously approve the CPSU Central Committee Plenum decisions and, with heart and mind, support the restructuring as their very own policy which accords with the interests of each Soviet person.

Foundation of Restructuring [subhead]

Aware the economy is a necessary foundation for the implementation of charted plans, the republic's working people are making their contribution toward its consolidation. In line with the CPSU Central Committee guidelines, major measures have been implemented here to improve management and the machinery of economic management. There are already initial positive changes in raising the technical standards of the national economy [paragraph continues]

Intersectorial science and technology complexes and engineering centers are gathering momentum. Active work continues on resource savings. It is typical that the average annual rate of output volume growth planned for the 5-year plan period has been achieved by the Ukraine's national economy in 1986 already, and has even been exceeded in terms of several indicators. The profits plan has been overfulfilled by R314 million. This was greatly assisted by the fact that more than one-half of items are already being produced by enterprises and associations working under the new conditions of economic management.

Output volumes of agricultural and food industry sectors have increased in the agro-industrial complex. The republic's construction industry workers fulfilled their plans for the comissioning of housing, children's preschool institutions, schools, vocational and technical colleges, hospitals, and polyclinics.

Today, however, when restructuring is deepening, it was said from the rostrum, it is necessary to examine the state of affairs more critically. This is also necessary because some people are inclined to overestimate the achievements. Meanwhile, restructuring, including the restructuring of the economy, is still proceeding slowly. The introduction of economic methods of management comes up against conservatism, inability and even some people's unwillingness to work in the new fashion.

For example, light industry has retained the flawed practice of revising plan indicators, output volumes are not coordinated with raw material resources, and the solution of social issues is inadequate. The situation is approximately the same within the system of the Ukrainian SSR Main Adminstration of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry. Sharp criticism was leveled against D.P. Galkin, republican minister of ferrous metallurgy. He has already been criticized on many occasions for his armchair, red tape, and bureaucratic style of work. The entire organizational work of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy boils down, as before, to the holding of conferences and sessions, without any effective measures being taken to ensure the steady work of enterprises. As a result of this, in January of this year alone, shortfalls in plan deliveries amounted to tens of thousands of metric tons of cast iron, steel, and rolled metal. The leader who had lost his sense of self-criticism could and should have been set on the right road by B.V. Kachura, secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee in charge of this sector, and by M.G. Perepadya, chief of the Central Committee Heavy Industry section, but they, the plenum noted, are failing to display due exactingness toward the ministry collegium.

Many complaints are caused by shortcomings in the activity of the Ukrainian SSR State Agro-industrial Committee. Its leaders have failed to properly grasp the new methods of management and, consequently, they make inadequate use of them. Anyone coming into contact with this organization considers the majority of main administrations and administrations copy the methods of work of former ministries and departments and operate without coordination. They have simply proved to be unprepared for the transition to the principles of financial autonomy. In this context, a demand was voiced from the plenum rostrum to Yu.A. Kolomiyets, chairman of the republic State Agro-Industrial Committee, that the fundamental problems of the Agro-Industrial complex should be tackled in more specific terms.

How is the republic Council of Ministers operating? After all, it is the body which must organize and lead the work on restructuring in the national economy. It was, however, bluntly stated at the plenum that the Council of Ministers and its Chairman A.P. Lyashko personally are still not fully coping with this task. [paragraph continues]

The work of its apparatus still shows not enough initiative and too much bureacracy, and the habit of working in the old manner is taking its toll.

For People [subhead]

For what purpose is the restructuring being conducted? For people, of course, to satisfy working people's constantly growing needs and requirements. Recently it has been possible to somewhat strengthen the social thrust of the republic's economy. Last year saw the fulfillment of plan targets for increasing the national income and for payments and benefits to the population out of public consumption funds. A great deal more money is being spent on the development of housing construction, on health, public education, culture, municipal services, trade and public catering, and consumer services.

Everyone was pleased to hear that the Sumy city party organization, under the leadership of Gorkom First Secretary M.A. Lushpa, is doing a great deal of work to increase construction of housing, of health centers, of schools, of nurseries at enterprises, and of trade and cultural establishments. They also take great pains over the architectural features of the city.

You do not find the same enthusiasm everywhere. Generally, the work being done falls short of the tasks in the social sphere and of the available potential. It has so far not been possible to get all cadres to address the people's needs. For example, last year the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources, the Ministry of Light Industry, and Odessa and Kherson Oblispolkoms failed to cope with targets on commissioning housing on the basis of state capital investments. The plenum called for an increase in housing construction on the basis of enterprises' own resources.

The Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Health and its minister A.Ye. Romanenko were strictly called to account for the situation in the republic's health service. There have been many letters from people complaining about the poor work of hospitals and about callous doctors. Tolerance of shortcomings in the development of the health service caused criticism of Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman M.A. Orlik too. It was pointed out that the work of the Ukrainian SSR Consumer Services Ministry system is still poor even though it was switched to the new management conditions more than a year ago. There were just accusations against leaders of the Ministry of Trade and Potrebsoyuz. The leaders of Zaporozhye Oblast were sharply criticized for not giving enough attention to working people at new enterprises currently under construction.

The Times and the Style [subhead]

The plenum insistently noted the need to consistently implement the party's directives to democratize social life, broaden openness, and develop criticism and self-criticism. Examples were cited wherein first secretaries were elected by secret ballot at the plenums of a number of party raykoms, with more than one candidate being nominated. New approaches have begun to be employed in the promotion of economic cadres. The republic has elected 462 leaders of industrial, construction, and transport and communication enterprises, and sovkhoz directors, as well as more than 25,000 shop chiefs. Nevertheless, the old ideas regarding cadre selection and promotion still recur.

We are still faced with the serious issue of combating formalism and stage management [zaorganizovannost] when holding meetings, plenums, and sessions. [paragraph continues]

As checks have shown, in the Nikolayev Oblast party organization the plenums of many committees, including the obkom, are conducted without any businesslike, critical discussion, the speeches, as a rule, amount to nothing more than accounts of individuals' own activities and general appeals, while the decisions actually taken are unspecific and do not contain properly thought out measures to eliminate shortcomings.

The restructuring process demands new approaches not only from party organs but also from soviet organs. The plenum reported certain facts recently brought to light by the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee within the Kherson Oblispolkom apparatus. The latter is reconciled to matters being neglected in many sectors and turns a blind eye to manifestations of red tape and of a formal, bureaucratic attitude toward people.

Noting the democratization of society poses in a new light the task of stepping up verification of the implementation of decisions, the speakers pointed out that work done by the Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, as well as by many other organs at local level, lacks sufficiently consistent, thorough monitoring. The speakers complained about the superficial inspection campaigns which frequently impede normal work. For example, last year Donetsk Oblast was visited by 490 officials of the republic's leading organs who spent a total of 3,700 days there. If we add to this the official ministerial and departmental visits and the checks carried out by local organizations, the end result is a whole avalanche of controllers descending on collectives every day.

However, despite the abundance of inspectors, serious shortcomings come to light time and again which are the result of the so-called "administrative-pressure" work style, the fallaciousness of which was particularly apparent in the actions of B.T. Goncharenko and V.F. Dobrik, former first secretaries of the Voroshilovgrad and Lvov Party Obkoms. The absence of real democratism and openness, the disregard for criticism and self-criticism, and the violation of the principles of collegiality in leadership led, as is known, to unfortunate consequences. Questions requiring the bureau's attention were resolved on a personal basis [yedinolichno], self-glorification flourished, and people's belief in their own infallibility and even a disdainful attitude toward the law asserted themselves.

"How could it happen," V.G. Dikusarov, first secretary of Khmelnitskiy Party Obkom, asked, "that secretaries, who were supposed to act as an example to others, found themselves in this kind of position? All of us should give some thought to this question."

"A certain share of the responsibility," V.M. Kavun, first secretary of Zhitomir Party Obkom, observed, "must be borne by the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, and A.A. Titarenko and V.V. Shcherbitskiy personally."

The Decisive Component [subhead]

Who is heading the restructuring effort? People, cadres. Improved work with them is the decisive component of acceleration. This idea recurred in many of the plenum speeches. A good basis exists, a reliable cadre potential is available in the republic for the practical implementation of the cadre policy elaborated by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. However, the conditions of the restructuring process have revealed clearly, like litmus paper, that sluggish people who lack initiative and who are trailing in the wake of events are still at the helm in a number of places. [paragraph continues]

Among the leaders there are many such people who are not prepared to tackle the new, more complex tasks. Nonetheless, they remain "ensconced" in their posts.

Sometimes just the reverse happens, when excessive haste to replace cadres leads to mistakes. In this context criticism was leveled at the Nikolayev Partry Obkom, which committed a serious error in promoting A.N. Adamov to the post of first secretary of Voznesensk Gorkom, and at Sumy Obkom, which ignored party norms in the selection, placement, and training of cadres in Glukhovskiy Rayon. Incidentally, in Sumy oblast cadres' responsibility for the work sector entrusted to them is interpreted in a peculiar way altogether. PRAVDA UKRAINY has denounced the flawed practice of placing the wrong people in charge of economic units in Nedrigaylovskiy Rayon: An editor is in charge of a livestock unit, a judge in charge of a boiler house, and so forth. However, instead of admitting the mistake, I.G. Grintsov, first secretary of Sumy Party Obkom, used the plenum rostrum for unjustified attacks on journalists.

Well founded complaints about a lowering of standards in the work with cadres and the absence of a reserve were leveled at Vinnitsa Party Obkom and L.L. Krivoruchko, its first secretary. The lineup of kolkhoz chairman, sovkhoz directors, and farm chief specialists here is one of the weakest in the republic, and this is the cause of the declining rates of agricultural development. The plenum has demanded that the situation be rectified without delay.

It was noted that the Central Committee Secretariat must promptly direct its sections and inspection group to study the actual situation at local level, assess the professional and political qualities of the cadres, and swiftly adopt measures to eliminate shortcomings.

The plenum demanded that the party political and economic training of party committee officials and all leading cadres be improved. Special attention was paid to preparations for the 70th anniversary of Great October.

The adopted resolution endorses practical measures to deepen the restructuring process and improve work with cadres in accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

'Sharp Criticism' in Leningrad

LD282111 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Sharp criticism and self-criticism, and a principled analysis of the progress of the restructuring of the forms and methods of action in the new conditions determined the atmosphere of the work of the plenum of the Leningrad Obkom of the CPSU. The tasks of the Leningrad party organization in fulfilling the decisions of the CPSU, Central Committee January Plenum were discussed. The issues of the acceleration of the socioeconomic development of the Leningrad and the national economy complex were comprehensively examined in the report by Comrade Solovyev, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Leningrad party obkom, and in the speeches.

Solovyev Reports to Leningrad

LD282110 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] A plenum of the Leningrad Oblast committee of the CPSU was held today in Smolnyy.

The work of the oblast party organization was discussed in implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. Solovyev, candidate Politburo member of the party Central Committee, first secretary of the Leningrad Oblast committee of the CPSU, gave a report.

The people of Leningrad had actively joined the restructuring process, supporting through practical deeds the course toward accelerating economic and social development. In 1987, all enterprises are working under new management conditions. The initiative of the people of Leningrad, supported by the CPSU Central Committee, to go over to a multishift work pattern had already made it possible to free about 16,000 units of equipment; the number of scientific research projects applied for had risen; and the scope of housing construction had increased. In 1 year in Leningrad and Leningrad Oblast, 46,000 apartments had been built.

It was noted in speeches by participants of the plenum, however, that the measures that have been adopted do not everywhere meet the scale and acuteness of the problems that have accumulated. The capital productivity is decreasing in many enterprises, scientific-technological progress rates are low, and contractual obligations are not being met. A number of enterprises had been poorly prepared for the introduction of the state acceptance service.

The plenum of the Leningrad Oblast committee of the party mapped out measures for the further activization of restructuring work in all directions.

'Positive Changes' in Chelyabinsk

LD290500 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Many enterprises in the southern Ural region have been able to exceed the plan's rates of labor productivity growth thanks to transferring from administrative to economic management methods. Nonetheless, positive changes have not become a firm tendency of development in the industrial area. This was discussed at the plenum of the CPSU oblast committee held today in Chelyabinsk. The plenum discussed the tasks of the oblast party organization to deepen restructuring and improve work with the cadres in the light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. It was noted at the plenum that in the period following the congress the process of enlisting fresh forces had strengthened and the opinion of the party organizations and working collectives was being more fully taken into account. The people should be addressed more frequently, reports made of what has been done, and the amount of paper reduced; then restructuring will proceed more quickly.

Report of Lithuanian Plenum

PM261523 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 14 Mar 87 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report on Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The Sixth Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum was held on 13 March.

The plenum discussed the question of "The Tasks of the Republic Party Organization in Deepening Restructuring and Improving Work With Cadres in Accordance With the Decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum."

The report was delivered by P.P. Grishkyavichyus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

Speakers in the debates were V.K. Mikuchyauskas, first secretary of the Vilnius Lithuanian Communist Party Gorkom; S.A. Gedraytis, first secretary of the Mazheyskiy Lithuanian Communist Party Raykom; B.A. Sheshplauskis, Lithuanian SSR minister of construction; K.V. Zaletskas, first secretary of the Shyaulyay Lithuanian Communist Party Gorkom; R.I. Songayla, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; N.A. Vaytkyavichyus, first secretary of the Panevezhis Lithuanian Communist Party Gorkom; V.V. Sakalauskas, chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers; Z.Yu Skarzhauskene, head of a livestock unit on the "Levanishkyay" Kolkhoz in Anikshchyayskiy Rayon; Yu.K. Pozhela, president of the Lithuanian SSR Academy of Sciences; A.K. Brazauskas, secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee; L.V. Drozdova, electrician at the Klaypeda dairy combine; S.G. Lisauskas, Lithuanian SSR minister of internal affairs; V.S. Astrauskas, secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee; E.M. Urbonavichyus, general director of the Lithuanian fish industry production association; R.P. Rimaytis, first secretary of the Kaunas Lithuanian Communist Party Gorkom; A.P. Iotsas, chairman of the "Pirmin" Kolkhoz in Shyaulyaskiy Rayon; G.P. Konoplev, first deputy chairman of the Lithuanian SSR State Agro-Industrial Committee; Z.L. Pantsireva, a weaver at the "Drobe" production association in Kaunas; and S.L. Rybakov, first secretary of the Alitus Lithuanian Communist Party Gorkom.

The plenum adopted a resolution on the question under discussion.

N.N. Leonov, senior executive of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the plenum's work.

KOMMUNIST Cites Armenian Plenum

PM261405 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 15 Mar 87 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report on Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] An Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum was held on 14 March 1987. The tasks facing the republic's party organization in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum's decisions "On Restructuring and the Party's Cadre Policy" were discussed.

The report was delivered by Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

The following comrades took part in the debates on the report: L.G. Saakyan, first secretary of the Yerevan Armenian Communist Party Gorkom; V.K. Khachatryan, fitter at the "Armelektrodvigatel" production association; S.M. Mkhitaryan, first secretary of the Echmiadzinskiy Armenian Communist Party Raykom; S.A. Ambartsumyan, rector of Yerevan State University; G.M. Voskanyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; D.A Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Leninakan Armenian Communist Party Gorkom; G.K. Sarkisyan, secretary of the party committee of the A. Khandzhyan Kolkhoz in Araratskiy Rayon; A.S. Shaginyan, Armenian SSR minister of internal affairs; K.I. Cherepanov [no title as published]; G.N. Kaplanyan, chairman of the board of the Armenian Theatrical Society; S.T. Nagiyeva, regulator at the "Rele" production association, P.M. Manvelyan, general director of the "Armelektromash" production association; F.T. Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers; [paragraph continues]

P.M. Davtyan, leader of a team of excavator operators at the Zangezurskiy copper and molybdenum combine; G.A. Oganyan, first secretary of the Kirovakan Armenian Communist Party Gorkom; R.A. Aleksanyan, first secretary of the Gorisskiy Armenian Communist Party Raykom; N.M. Adalyan, secretary of the board of the Armenian Union of Writers; M.Ts. Mkrtchyan, Armenian SSR minister of trade; M.S. Grigoryan, first secretary of the Vardenisskiy Armenian Communist Party Raykom; and A.A. Kandilyan, chief of the Yerevan section of the Transcaucasian Railroad.

The closing speech at the plenum was delivered by Comrade K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee.

The Central Committee plenum adopted a resolution on the question under discussion.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum then ended work.

Comrade V.Ya. Gerasimenko, instructor of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department, took part in the plenum's work.

UZBEK, TURKMEN, ESTONIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEES MEET

LD282134 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] There have been full-scale meetings of the Central Committees of the Communist parties in three Soviet republics, in Estonia, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan. They discussed reconstruction in the economy, in public life, and the party work. Speakers pointed out that the process was too slow.

In Uzbekistan, a group of officials who have discredited themselves have been called to account. Some of them held high posts. However, the full-scale meeting said that the current problems had far deeper roots than was originally estimated.

In Turkmenia, the Central Committee's meeting said that major difficulties had been encountered in reorganizing the social sphere, and in Estonia the meeting said that Communist Party bodies failed to use effectively all opportunities for a profound change in social and economic development.

GEORGIAN OFFICIALS DISMISSED FOR CORRUPTION

AU291405 Paris AFP in English 0042 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 29 (AFP) -- Several leading officials in the Soviet Republic of Georgia have been sacked and several hundred more sanctioned for involvement in widespread corruption and forgery, according to local press reports reaching here on Saturday.

The ZARYA VOSTOKA newspaper said those dismissed included the Georgian republic's deputy premier, Yuriy Kedishvili, its minister of light industry, Georgiy Gamtsemlidze (who was also sacked from the Communist Party), three deputy construction ministers and the mayor of Tbilisi, Zaur Meskhishvili.

Thirteen officials of the Georgian Bank for Construction were also sacked, according to the report published in the newspaper on Thursday.

It also said sactions were announced against 135 Communist party members concerned with building, four chairmen of regional executive councils, 18 regional officials and more than 150 collective and state farm managers.

Another 80 people on the staff of the Georgia Communist Party Central Committee lost their jobs and 30 were dismissed from the party following the discovery of a widespread corruption racket involving the production of fruit juice.

The paper said controllers had found that millions of rubles were wasted last year and that forgery had been committed in one out of every two industrial and farm enterprises in Georgia.

KUYBYSHEV OBKOM OFFICIAL DISCUSSES DISMISSALS

PM271101 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Report by G. Khodeasevich, secretary of Kuybyshev CPSU Obkom, under the the rubric "The Newspaper Spoke Out. What Has Been Done?": "'Selective Exactingness'"]

[Text] Kuybyshev CPSU Obkom reports that the article under this headline published 17 December 1986 has been examined at a party obkom bureau session.

It rightly pointed out that work with cadres in the Tolyatti city party organization still does not fully meet the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress. Indeed, in a number of instances in the selection and promotion of leading workers poor study was made of their professional, political, and moral qualities, and proper attention was not devoted to strict observance of the Leninist principles and norms of party life. This led to a number of economic leaders being punished along party lines and dismissed from their posts for abuses of their official position in recent years. Criminal proceedings were instituted against some of them.

Elements of formalism occurred in work with the cadre reserve, and systematic training, education, and instruction of future leaders were not carried out. These shortcomings also occur in other party committees in the oblast.

At the same time, the CPSU Obkom Bureau points out that the grounds for instituting party proceedings against N. Perepelitsa and A. Platitsyn were not their critical remarks against G. Kutepov but their abuses of their official position.

Thus, while having a well appointed apartment for a family of two people in Tolyatti, N. Perepelitsa secured the illegal allocation of a plot of land on which he built a sizable brick house, a garage, a bathhouse, and other outbuildings. In so doing he abused his official position to acquire large quantities of funded materials and committed gross violations of financial discipline for mercenary purposes -- for which the association's party committee expelled him from the CPSU.

A. Platitsyn was expelled from the party for violating norms of party morality, expressed in deception and the submission of counterfeit certificates to obtain housing and in abuse of his official position to acquire funded construction materials, for insincereity, and for unparty-minded conduct in examining a personal case. The CPSU Obkom reinstated A. Platitsyn as a party member and gave him a severe reprimand, entered in his record card, for those misdemeanors.

The party obkom refused to reinstate N. Perepelitsa in the CPSU's ranks. The appeal he lodged with the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee was withdrawn from examination at his request.

The CPSU Obkom Bureau pointed out to S. Turkin, first secretary of Tolyatti party gorkom, the need to fundamentally improve work on the selection, placement, and training of leading cadres, enhance exactingness toward them, and strengthen the role of primary party organizations in labor collectives.

The party obkom bureau also obliged party gorkoms and raykoms to ensure the active participation of all party organizations in implementing the party's cadre policy, to make a better study of the opinion of Communists and members of labor collectives on the professional, moral, and political qualities of persons promoted to leading work, to make wider use of certification and probationary work for these purposes, and to rule out decisionmaking on cadre questions without, considering the party organization's opinion.

TERNOPOL OBKOM UNDERGOES LEADERSHIP CHANGES

AU251755 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 21 Mar 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "Working Creatively, Supporting Everything New, Advanced"]

[Excerpts] A Ternopol Obkom plenum was held 20 March. Its participants discussed a report by Gusyatinskiy Raykom on implementing the decisions of the 27th Party Congress and the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum concerning the restructuring of party work.

The plenum noted that, after the party congress, the rayon had made a turn toward brisk organizational work among people, and that efficiency and constructiveness had gained a foothold in settling key problems concerning the rayon's national economic development, and primarily the leading branch in the rayon's economy, agricultural production. This has positively affected the situation. The 1986 plans for the output and sales to the state of all major farm produce had been fulfilled.

At the same time, the restructuring work carried out in the rayon has not met the requirements of the 27th CPSU Congress and the directives of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. The raykom and its bureau, the speakers noted, have not made full use of the conditions for profound qualitative changes in the rayon's public and economic life. Party organizations and administrative and economic organs still have not aimed their work sufficiently toward finding and utilizing reserves to raise labor productivity, to improve product quality, and to intensify the economy drive. [passage omitted]

The plenum examined an organizational issue. A.I. Korniyenko was relieved of the duties of obkom first secretary in connection with his being confirmed in the post of Organizational Party Work Department chief in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. V.Ye. Ostrozhynskiy, hitherto Zhitomir Obkom second secretary, was elected Ternopol Obkom first secretary.

The plenum was addressed by I.A. Mozgovoy, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary.

PRAVDA UKRAINY ON DNEPROPETROVSK OBKOM PLENUM

AU261018 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 20 Mar 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "Overcoming Stagnation, Restructuring in a Resolute Way -- at a Plenum of Dnepropetrovsk Obkom"]

[Text] The way Dnepropetrovsk Obkom has met the 27th CPSU Congress requirements concerning the restructuring of party control over the oblast's socioeconomic development was discussed at an obkom plenum held on 17 March. The plenum was held in the spirit of efficiency and frankness, of principled criticism and self-criticism, and in the spirit of a search for ways to rapidly eliminate stagnation in organizational and political work.

The need to hold the plenum arose from the fact that, after examining the situation in the oblast, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee found shortcomings in the style of work performed by the obkom, its bureau, and obkom first secretary V.G. Boyko.

B.V. Kachura, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and secretary, delivered a report at the plenum.

The speaker and the plenum participants who took the floor noted the majority of basic party organizations continually restructured their activity in light of the directives of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. More attention has been paid to solving problems concerning the acceleration of scientific-technological progress, to perfecting production organization and management, and to the democratization of the entire public life. All this has favorably affected the work performed in many sectors of the oblast's national economy.

At the same time, the plenum participants emphasized, the pace of the changes could have been faster and the results in economic and social development could have been more significant, if all party, administrative, and economic leaders had made wider and more energetic use of the possibilities set forth in the 27th party congress decisions and of the reserves available in the oblast. Many of them have been slow to change the style and methods of their work. The ballast of old ideas, with whose assistance individual leaders tried to accomplish their tasks, is still heavy.

A number of collectives have thus far been content with a slow pace in the growth of production, comparing it not with what is needed, but with what used to be before. The sales of industrial goods with an eye on delivery obligations have fallen short of the plans month in and month out. Last year, every third enterprise in the oblast cut back on the plan, and every fourth fell short of contract obligations for deliveries and of the plans for incomes. No radical changes have taken place in the efforts to raise the quality and competitiveness of the products manufactured.

As the speakers noted, the work carried out at a number of facilities to modernize rolling mills and to apply combined converter steel blowing techniques has been unjustifiedly dragging. A.I. Priymak, Dneprodzerzhinskiy Gorkom first secretary, said the obkom and gorkoms, including Dneprodzerzhinskiy Gorkom, were not thorough enough in analyzing the causes of lags in the basic branches, and their work was not properly geared to the long-term. He pointed out that the work planned for wearing capacities away [na iznos moshchnostey] was in progress.

This is also the way problems are being settled in another priority branch, machine building. Thus far, we have not met with the obkom's support in this respect, V.I. Gandabura, turner at the Kommunist plant in Krivoy Rog, said. This is probably also an omission on the part of Obkom First Secretary V.G. Boyko. The center created for fixing programmed control is idling, and so are expensive machine tools.

"Our people still have not learned to tell what they have on their minds," S.F. Anfinogenov, miners team leader in the 26th CPSU Congress mine under the Pavlograd Coal Mining Association, pointed out. "There is a great deal to say. Let us take Pershotravensk with tens of thousands of its inhabitants. Production is expanding year in and year out, but there are only a few sociocultural service facilities, including trade enterprises. It is incomprehensible that the oblispolkom and the oblast trade unions council cannot select people to draw up plans for the most necessary small-town facilities. Promises have been made, but nothing has been done."

The plenum strongly emphasized that the accomplishment of tasks for accelerating socioeconomic progress largely depended on the maturity of leading cadres and on the style of their work. In recent times, the obkom bureau has not created conditions for a deep, all-round, and collective discussion in imminent problems. Leadership methods condemned by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum -- numerous conferences, sessions, and administration by decree -- have been widespread.

Obkom bureau members and many obkom members who took the floor at the plenum emphasized that it was primarily the obkom first secretary who had to be blamed for that. He has not been a model in restructuring, has limited decisions on how most questions are settled to himself, and in this way he has hampered the initiative and independence of cadres in their work.

Oblispolkom chairman Yu.P. Babich said: "We have repeatedly made oral and even written proposals concerning the topics of industrial development, capital construction, the agro-industrial complex, and the social sphere. These proposals have not been settled favorably. V.G. Boyko's stagnation and personal opinions were the main cause of this. There was no way to persuade him to change his mind.

N.G. Omelchenko, Dnepropetrovsk Gorkom first secretary; V.I. Ostapchenko, Nikopolskiy Ramkom first secretary; V.P. Samodrin, oblast trade union council chairman; and others noted Comrade Boyko had developed such qualities as disregard for the opinions of colleagues, a tendency toward overestimating what has been achieved, lack of self-criticism, and fondness for show. V.I. Ostapchenko quoted an example to show what even the best plan may turn into when it is used for self-advertising purposes. As is known, the oblast has initiated a movement for the comprehensive reconstruction of the countryside. It was a useful undertaking. It is wrong to select one single rayon, to invest in it the lion's share of funds, to assign to it oblast leaders, including all oblispolkom deputy chairmen, and then to present this rayon as a model. Problems concerning sociocultural services in the countryside have to be settled as they arise by each rayon.

The essence of many other intiatives, which began to crop up in the oblast like mushrooms after a rain, was identical. Last year, for example, the oblast's party committees approved more than 170 of them. Many of them proved to be far-fetched.

While condemning the wrong leadership methods cultivated by the obkom first secretary, the plenum participants submitted to criticism the bureau and its secretaries, who for a long time showed no proper adherence to principles in assessing the wrong style of work adopted by the first secretary, and his deviation from the participles of collective leadership. This criticism was all the more valid as they themselves were slow to restructure.

Thus, A.A. Mironenko bears personal responsibility for the substantial shortcomings in the work of industry. However, in his speech he only formally admitted his shortcomings, and blamed higher organs and local party committees for the lag incurred by metallurgical and ore mining enterprises. V.Ye. Streltsov, Verkhnedneprovskiy Raykom first secretary, who took the floor at the plenum, aptly noted that although Comrade Mironenko criticized the obkom first secretary's style of work, he himself was only seldom in the field and shunned the solution of pressing problems. Obkom Secretary B.A. Safronov was seriously reproached for omissions in ideological work.

The plenum participants persistently indicated that everyone whom the communist entrusted with a job in elective organs needed to thoroughly restructure, that it was essential to increase responsibility for the matter at hand, to create conditions for mutual exactingness, to draw correct conclusions from criticism, and to be self-critical.

The plenum thoroughly scrutinized the obkom's work among cadres. These questions were frequently settled in secret. The first secretary frequently confronted obkom bureau members with accomplished facts. As N.K. Zadoya, obkom second secretary, noted, many appointments and changes in staffing were made in line with V.G. Boyko's personal opinion, without a previous thorough examination and without consulting colleagues.

Such an attitude -- the failure to thoroughly examine the business-like and political qualities of the recommended functionaries -- occasionally resulted in blatant errors, particularly in selecting cadres for law-enforcing organs. As a result, various infringements and abuses grew ever more frequent in the oblast. The plenum participants condemned the infringements of socialist legality committeed by the oblast prosecutor's office, and bias with regard to V.F. Cherkasov, former correspondent of the newspaper PRAVDA, on the part of some obkom functionaries.

The shortcomings in V.G. Boyko's workstyle were noted by obkom bureau members and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee secretaries. V.G. Goyko was submitted to criticism at a Central Committee plenum, but failed to draw the appropriate conclusions.

The Ukrainain Communist Party Central Committee Politburo called the attention of the obkom bureau and secretariat to the shortcomings in their work and requested them to restructure this work in line with the decisions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 plenum. Additional measures were recommended to expand openness, to enhance criticism and self-criticism, particularly criticism from below, to radically improve control over law-enforcing organs and the mass media.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee severely reprimanded V.G. Boyko for disregarding the principle of collectivism in the bureau, for the serious shortcomings, in workstyle, and for the errors in selecting cadres for law-enforcing organs. The obkom was requested to examine the issue of his continuing to work in the post he held.

The plenum found that it was impossible for V.G. Boyko to remain on the post of obkom first secretary.

The obkom plenum has proved that the Dnepropetrovsk oblast party organization was efficient and united. Obkom members assess the state of affairs in adherence to principles, sharply react to shortcomings, and take steps to eliminate them. The plenum instructed the obkom bureau to take account of the remarks and proposals made, and to draw up and to take additional steps to restructure party control over the oblast's socioeconomic development, and to eliminate everything that hampers progress.

The plenum participants expressed firm confidence that the Dnepropetrovsk Oblast party organization would do its utmost to implement the line of the 27th CPSU Congress and to give a worthy welcome to the 70th anniversary of the Great October.

CORRECTION TO PLEVAKO ON JOURNALISTS' CONGRESS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Plevako Defends Election," published in the 20 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page R 19, paragraph one, line seven:

...Presidium for electing a new executive by a show of hands and that as the result of the secret ballot the union's chairman, Afanasyev, was elected for another term. (supplying dropped line)

IZVESTIYA ON GEORGIAN SNOW DAMAGE, FLOOD THREAT

PM271456 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by APN correspondent V. Kadzhaya under the rubric "Details for IZVESTIYA": "Georgia: A Worrying Spring"]

[Excerpts] Tbilisi -- The material damage inflicted on the republic by the elements is extremely great. In financial terms, it comes to a sum in excess of R350 million. Some 4,500 individual houses were destroyed or damaged, and there was damage to many industrial and agricultural enterprises, irrigation and land reclamation systems, hundreds of clinics, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, clubs, and so forth. Some 16 km of railroad, 1,800 km of motor roads and electricity transmission lines, and more than 1,300 km of communications lines went out of operation. More than 80,000 hectares of plowland and perennial plantations were damaged -- including plantations of tea, citrus fruits, and other subtropical crops that will not grow anywhere else in the USSR.

A total of 110 people died... Of these, 105 were in mountain regions, and 5 were in the flood region. Upper Svanetiya suffered most of all, more precisely Mestiyskiy Rayon, the highest not only in Georgia, but in Europe. Here the avalanches took 81 lives. There could have been fewer casualties: The meteorologists had warned of the danger which threatened. But while preparing for it, nobody in Svanetiya really thought that the onslaught of the elements would be so fierce and savage. Whereas usually there are 30-40 avalanches here in the course of the season, in the period 9-31 January alone a total of 330 were recorded! Just one of them, which hit the village of Zhamushi on 9 January, buried 26 people.

After that fatal, truly black day for Svanetiya, people realized how great the danger was, and began to take every possible precaution. They began to evacuate people from the high mountain villages which were in the greatest danger from avalanches. The crews of helicopters from the Georgian Civil Aviation Administration and the Transcaucasus Military District displayed fearlessness and heroism. In the very difficult conditions of an unceasing snowfall, they managed to bring out more than 2,000 people. As of today, a total of 8,200 people from the mountain regions have been resettled.

But the elements have not died down...

The flooding in Colchis was caused by a unique atmospheric phenomenon which happens, they say, once in a thousand years. Colchis had not experienced anything of the kind in its entire history. This is what happened. Remember Pushkin's lines: "From Finland's icy crags to fiery Colchis"? At the end of January they quite unexpectedly took on a sinister meaning. A powerful anticyclone formed over Scandinavia. It spread all over Europe, carrying cold air masses which were only stopped by the Greater Caucasus range. Warm, most air from the Atlantic also ran up against this range. The clash between the cyclone and the anticyclone resulted in what was literally a tropical downpour. This, combined with a rapid rise in temperature, led to a rapid thawing of the snow in the mountains, where snow had previously been falling continuously for more than a month! In 36-48 hours the little streams of Colchis turned into raging torrents, while the Rioni swelled to monstrous proportions. The flow rate exceeded 4,600 cubic meters [per second] whereas in the most abundant spring floods it had not exceeded 3,500 cubic meters, and usually runs at only 150. This pressure could not be withstood by the 74-km protective dike, which burst not far from the village of Chaladidi, which, in translation, means "big floodlands" -- which speaks for itself. [paragraph continues]

The water began to flow uncontrollably over the Colchis depression, which is as flat as a table. In a few hours a lake had formed, with an area of more than 200 square kilometers and a depth of up to 2 meters.

Despite this sudden onslaught, this time the elements did not catch people unaware. The population was warned in good time about the possible flood, and the lesson of Svanetiya was not wasted. Machinery was brought in beforehand and rescue facilities and more were prepared. The Rioni burst its dike at 1500 hours, and by 1630 columns of amphibians and armored carriers were pouring into Chaladidi, Sagvichno, Sakorkko, and other flooded villages. By 2100 hours some 6,000 people had been taken to Poti, Tskhakaya, and nearby rayon centers, and another 3,000 by the morning. Thanks to the high level of organization and the absence of panic, many casualties were prevented. Many hundreds of people showed courage and selflessness and demonstrated their high concept of civic duty. [passage omitted]

Today repair work is in full swing in the affected regions. The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a resolution "On Measures To Assist the Georgian SSR in Eliminating the Consequences of the Natural Disasters." For this year alone, the republic's capital investments have been increased by more than R175 million, and for next year by another R30 million. The population has been granted additional credits, on a concessionary basis, amounting to R8 million for individual construction, and R17 million have been allocated for housing construction. The entire debt on loans taken earlier by the owners of destroyed or damaged houses has been written off. Farms and enterprises in the affected regions have been granted concessionary terms of finance and credit for the construction of cooperative-built houses of the farmstead type. [passage omitted]

Winter brought great trouble to Georgia. And the spring is not tranquil either. Three or four times more snow than usual has accumulated in the mountains, and in some places, such as the Gagrskiy and Bzybskiy ranges, it is seven or eight times more than usual. So the spring floods are expected to be no less, and perhaps even more powerful, than the January flood. The danger of avalanches persists in the mountains. Many streams there are so blocked by debris that a mud slide can result, which is more terrifying than an avalanche. The mountain slopes are in motion. Dozens of villages have already felt the terrible sliding of the land, including the celebrated Khvanchkara, which was destroyed by a landslide.

The republic is now preparing for a new battle with the elements. All the inhabitants are being evacuated from villages at risk from avalanches. River beds are being cleared. In Colchis the dikes and other bank reinforcing structures are being strengthened. In the mountains, coal dust is being scattered from helicopters to artificially speed up the thawing of the snow and reduce the quantities before the onset of the warm weather, when it will begin to thaw everywhere at once. The 1.5-km sector of dike broken by the Rioni has been repaired and reliably reinforced. However, not far from Poti they have prepared three points on the dike where they will break it if the rate of flow in the Rioni exceeds 4,800 cubic meters a second, because the dike will not withstand that pressure. In that case, it will be broken in such a way that the torrent does not hit Poti, but flows in the direction of Lake Paleostomi and thence to the Black Sea...

Great trials lie ahead. But people know about it, they know the whole truth, and they find courage and strength of spirit in that truth.

MID-MARCH WEATHER IN EUROPEAN USSR 'UNUSUAL'

PM261619 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Agrometeorologist T. Ivashneva report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Unusual weather persisted over the country's European territory. The average air temperature during the 10-day period was identical in Arkhangelsk Oblast and the southern Ukraine and was 5-10 degrees below the perennial average. In the northeast of the territory, it was 1-3 degrees above the perennial average. The minimum air temperature varied from minus 7 degrees in the North Caucasus to minus 25 degrees in the Northern Region.

Winter grain crops in the European part were in a state of winter dormancy beneath a snow cover for the most part 15-50 cm deep. Therefore, despite the frosts, the soil temperature at tillering node depth for winter grain crops and at grass root neck depth stayed between minus 5 and minus 10 degrees -- considerably above the critical mark. At the end of the 10-day period the maximum air temperature in Odessa Oblast, over the majority of Krasnodar Kray, and at places in Moldavia and western Ukrainian oblasts rose to 6-10 degrees, which caused intensive thawing and disappearance of the snow cover.

In individual Krasnodar Kray rayons and in the North Caucasus autonomous republics the soil attained a soft plasticity 3-6 days later than the perennial average, and field work began.

In connection with the wintery weather conditions fruit crops in southern regions of the European part were in a state of enforced rest, and only in the south of Krasnodar Kray was swelling and opening of buds observed on apricot, peach, cherry, sweet cherry, and plum trees.

In the Transcaucasian republics the weather was cold and rainy. The average air temperature over the 10-day period was 2-5 degrees below the perennial average. The minimum temperature fell from minus 1 to minus 5 degrees, and in Armenia from minus 9 to minus 15 degrees. Only in southern Azerbaijan were no frosts observed. Apricot trees there blossomed 7-15 days earlier than the perennial average. Frequent rain hampered field work.

Cold weather persisted in the majority of Siberian farming regions and in the northwest of Kazakhstan: The average air temperature over the 10-day period was 2-6 degrees below the perennial average. On individual nights the temperature fell to minus 20-30 degrees, and in places in East Siberia to minus 31-38 degrees. Winter grain crops were in a state of winter dormancy. Frosts were not a danger to crops because the fields were covered by snow in the main 20-45 cm deep.

In the Central Asian republics the average air temperature during the 10-day period was 1-3 degrees above the perennial average. Rain created favorable conditions for growth of sown grasses and pasture vegetation. Fruit crops were developing 3-4 weeks in advance of the perennial average. Apricot trees blossomed almost everywhere.

SOKOLOV ISSUES ORDER ON NEXT MILITARY DRAFT

PM261345 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[USSR Defense Minister S. Sokolov Order of the Day No. 93]

[Text] USSR Defense Minister's Order of the Day No. 93, dated Moscow, 25 March 1987.

On the discharge, from the ranks of the USSR Armed Forces into the reserve, of servicemen who have completed their prescribed period of active military service and on the next draft of citizens for active military service in April-June 1987.

In accordance with the USSR Law "On Compulsory Military Service" /I order/ [words within slantlines published in boldface]:

1. That conscripted servicemen who have completed their prescribed period of active military service be discharged from the ranks of the Soviet Army, Navy, Border Guards, and Internal Troops into the reserve in April-June 1987.

2. That, in connection with the discharge into the reserve of the servicemen indicated in Item 1 of this order, male citizens aged 18 by the draft date and without the right to deferment of the draft for active military service and citizens of higher draft ages [grazhdane starshikh prizyvnykh vozrastov] who have lost the right to draft deferment be drafted into active military service in the Soviet Army, Navy, Border Guards, and Internal Troops in April-June 1987.

3. That this order be promulgated in all companies, batteries, and squadrons and on board ships.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, USSR defense minister

NAVY CHIEF CHERNAVIN INTERVIEWED ON CADRE ISSUES

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 87 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin, commander in Chief of the Navy, conducted by Captain First Rank S. Bystrov, editor of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Navy Combat Training Section, under the rubric "Military Cadres: Duty and Responsibility": "The Standing of the Seagoing Personnel [Plavsostav]"]

[Text] [Bystrov] Comrade Admiral of the Fleet, the rubric "The Standing of the Seagoing Personnel," under which more than 20 articles and contributions by fleet officers have been carried, was born in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA almost 1 year ago. I use the word "born" because readers themselves have helped to highlight this problem and bring it home to the newspaper and in so doing have made many specific and constructive proposals. How has the Navy command regarded the discussion of the seagoing personnel's standing carried out in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA?

[Chernavin] We had studied the problem before. Certain measures had been taken. [paragraph continues]

The first KRASNAYA ZVEZDA articles on this topic therefore received our great attention. The newspaper conducted discussion on questions which it is essential be tackled more energetically today. Further convincing evidence of this was supplied by the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, which stresses the fundamental importance of intensifying the social thrust of leading cadres' activity and of teaching them to regard social problems as a very important matter. I have advised my deputies, chiefs of directorates of the Main Staff and central directorates of the Navy, commanders, and members of fleet military councils to study all the articles concerned with enhancing the standing of seagoing personnel so that they can then not only make their own suggestions but also take account of the opinions expressed in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in their practical activity. We have also raised the issue of enhancing the standing of seagoing personnel at a session of the Navy Military Council.

[Bystrov] What, in your view, is the nub of the problem? Why is it demanding particular attention of late?

[Chernavin] Service on board ship is one of the most complicated and difficult forms of sailors' professional activity. And the existing system of incentives for military servicemen's military labor ought to take this adequately into account. It has to be admitted, however, that the prevailing mechanism of incentives for the Navy's seagoing personnel, including certain appreciable privileges, still does not fully meet present-day requirements. This is the consequence, in particular, of omissions on the part of specific officials at local level, their failure to fully appreciate the importance of the social factor in improving the seagoing personnel's commitment.

I have in mind, for example, the inefficient organization of seagoing personnel's duty and working time. It is bad enough that during long sea voyages and exercises people do not have the opportunity to go home, but even when the ships are at their bases officers and ensigns are quite often forced to stay on board ship around the clock without any need and go long periods without leave. And this sometimes turns into a system, a system taking no account of people's personal interests or needs.

The intensity of duty on board ship has sharply increased in recent decades and continues to do so, demanding from officers, particularly those at command level, such complete commitment that they sometimes have no time left at all for their personal lives. It is only natural that greater care and attention be shown this category of seaman. Otherwise a shift of interest in a shoreward direction among seagoing officers and ensigns is inevitable.

I remember my own years as a commander. If I managed to spend 2 nights at home a week it was a matter of celebration for my family. I usually learned about my leave when it had already begun. During every voyage I was worried by thoughts of the everyday difficulties my family was experiencing... But that was 25 years ago. The Navy has grown quickly. We all realized that these were temporary difficulties. Unfortunately, it has taken longer than it should to overcome some of them.

[Bystrov] Perhaps people then also demanded fewer of the comforts of life and were more self-sacrificing?

[Chernavin] It should not, of course, be forgotten that the Soviet people have grown considerably more prosperous. The spiritual and material needs of all categories of seagoing personnel have increased. [paragraph continues]

In addition the Navy has grown qualitatively and the officer corps has also expanded. Let us be frank, there is more wastage among officers nowadays. I would be hard pressed to recall a single instance of an officer saying that he had chosen the wrong path during my own time of service on board ship. Now, however, disenchantment among young officers during shipboard service is not an isolated phenomenon. And it does not only affect the young. A mentality geared toward achieving satisfaction here and now and a desire for today's shore-based comforts unfortunately outweighs in some officers the desire to achieve bigger and better targets. And then, when their career comes to a standstill and they are overtaken in rank and status by people who are devoted and selfless, they experience dissatisfaction and resentment and a feeling of having been passed over...

[Bystrov] So the seagoing personnel's prestige depends to quite a large extent on the personal attitude adopted by every officer and ensigns to the profession of naval seaman chosen by him. And clearly this will depend first and foremost on the ships' commanders.

[Chernavin] The tier of ship commander is undoubtedly the most important one. And consequently our most important task is to comprehensively enhance the prestige of that post, particularly its moral aspect.

Unfortunately, the post of commander has sometimes been regarded as just an intermediate rung in the overall ladder of command posts. This neither corresponds to reality nor serves the interests of the Navy. On becoming commander of a ship, an officer quite often nowadays thinks about how to get through this stage as quickly as possible, seeing his career prospects in lying those posts yet to come. The Navy, however, requires that an officer appointed commander see his prospects as lying principally in achieving the fullest self-expression in that post. And this comes with practice, experience, and growing expertise.

Interesting ideas on this were expressed in the articles entitled "The Prestige of the Officer on the Bridge" and "New Incentives Are Needed" written by Captain First Rank A. Bobrakov, chief of staff of a formation. Yes, the system for assessing a commander's professional qualities, providing incentives for performance, and giving him the opportunity to regularly improve his education, including education at an academy, must be made better. Professional competence and all-around education on the part of a commander is for today's Navy no mere wish but an absolute necessity. Here we must considerably increase the demands made on commanders while creating at the same time all the necessary conditions conducive to their growth.

"The commander as the central figure in the Navy" must be no mere phrase, it must be a perceptible reality, and one backed up by a system of incentives.

[Bystrov] What is it actually proposed to do here? To what extent will the suggestions put forward by the newspaper's readers be taken into account?

[Chernavin] The extensive open discussion of the problem of enhancing the seagoing personnel's standing has undoubtedly proven useful. Constructive proposals received from the fleets are studied by us, categorized, and submitted for discussion. We divide them into three sections: Those that fall within the fleets' competence, those that can be resolved at the level of Navy command, and those that require to be submitted to higher authorities. [paragraph continues]

Instructions have been issued requiring specific measures be taken in the fleets so that the reserves be used to help enhance the seagoing personnel's standing.

This, of course, demands restructuring of the work of many officials. But there is no other way of resolving the problems facing us. At the same time it is essential to take account of the actual realities and our potential.

Let us take the following example. A new apartment block was commissioned in Severomorsk. The chairman of the garrison housing and consumer services commission reported to Vice Admiral S. Vargin, member of the Military Council and chief of the Northern Fleet Political Directorate, the commission's decision to allocate 60 percent of the apartments to shore-based officers and 40 percent to seagoing officers. After all, most of the shore-based officers have done long service on board ship. They have long deserved preferential allocation of housing. I had a telephone conversation with him at exactly that time. Sergey Pavlovich asked my advice. Without imposing my own opinion, I nevertheless said that I would do the opposite to the commission chairman. Vice Admiral Vargin said that he thought likewise.

[Bystrov] And which of the planned measures will directly relate to ships' commanders?

[Chernavin] First, I consider it essential to create the kind of situation at local level in which ships' commanders can be most effectively engaged in their chief task. We are now, for example, taking measures to drastically reduce the flow of "official paperwork" between formations and ships. It is planned to reduce the amount of documentation carried out on board ships and to formalize it -- for example, the ship's combat training log. The Navy Main Staff and combat training apparatus intend before this year is out to give more rights and independence to formation commanders in the organization and conduct of combat training. This will doubtless promote great creative activity at local level. It is, after all, very important that ships' commanders should be fully committed mentally. They must be firmly convinced that their contribution and party and professional qualities will be properly evaluated and will play a key role in determining their career prospects. Long service in this post should not be a hurdle to rising further in the service.

I would again refer to the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum's resolution, which requires, in particular, that "a careful, thoughtful, and principled attitude be shown to cadres when selecting and replacing them, being guided in all cases solely by the interests of the matter. Both stagnation and unjustified, rash replacement of workers are impermissible here."

Unfortunately, these important questions are quite often resolved on the basis of purely formal indicators.

It is essential that officers in command of ships be accorded more respect and attention in the fleets. By no means all senior chiefs, staffs, or political departments treat this question with the appropriate degree of understanding and responsibility. Cases where punishment has been meted out to commanders in an abusive fashion and where undue restraint has been shown in encouraging them have occurred. Instances of excessive administration replacing painstaking educational work with commanders also occur quite often.

Unfortunately, there have been too few suggestions on the "commander issue" forthcoming from the fleets so far. [paragraph continues]

With the exception of the Baltic Fleet, that is, where, under the leadership of the commander and of the chief of the fleet's political directorate, who is a member of the Military Council, serious analytical work on practical suggestions has been carried out. And yet every formation commander or fleet commander has been a ship commander and experienced that post's particular responsibility and difficulty.

[Bystrov] Will not such passivity also affect the process of practical implementation of these instructions at local level? Since instructions only take on real meaning when they are put into effect consciously and energetically.

[Chernavin] The need to enhance the prestige of the post of commander and the standing of the entire seagoing personnel is most fully felt primarily at local level. I think we will find there appropriate mutual understanding, an effective response, and true party commitment from all flag officers. Political bodies and party organizations have an important role to play here in enhancing the seagoing personnel's standing. And appropriate monitoring and assistance will be ensured by the Navy command, along with the relevant measures for which we are responsible.

[Bystrov] What measures is it proposed to take at this level?

[Chernavin] The instructions received by the fleets stress, for example, the need to achieve a situation where the officers of a ship at base mandatorily have 1 day off per week. It is proposed to revise in a downward direction the number of people allocated from seagoing personnel to garrison duties and shipboard details. It is proposed to establish additional privileges and to improve the provision of treatment at sanatoriums and health resorts for seagoing personnel and the organized recreation made available to them at tourist centers and leisure centers. Proposals to institute the decorations of "Submarine Commander" and "Ship's Commander" in addition to existing decorations, to establish class grading [klassnost] for ships' commanders, to alter the regulations and description of the "Long Voyage" medal...are being studied at the moment...

A special commission headed by Admiral of the Fleet N. Smirnov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, has now been set up which is concerned with questions of enhancing the seagoing personnel's standing. It is now study specific proposals emanating from the fleets that were expressed in articles carried in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. The determination of long-term measures also falls within the commission's competence.

[Bystrov] Some readers have expressed the opinion that the quality of the selection procedure for applicants to naval colleges must be improved, believing that certain cadre difficulties involving the seagoing personnel are generated as early as that stage.

[Chernavin] If a naval college graduate who is specially trained for service on board ship seeks to get transferred to shore as quickly as possible this indicates a clear failing in the work carried out by the college. And such shortcomings particularly worry us because the entrance examinations for naval colleges are highly competitive and the selection made should thus fully serve the Navy's interests. We are intent here on decisively eliminating existing flaws.

The problem of the seagoing personnel's prestige must not, of course, be seen in isolation, divorced from the whole system of selection, placement, and training of fleet cadres. It affects a whole range of questions and must be resolved as an integrated whole. The work of restructuring in the Navy and the further enhancement of its combat readiness are greatly dependent on this today.

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